

## **Occupy Sydney, worker's rights and trade unions**

Occupy Sydney is a centre of solidarity where workers seeking community support can come to explain their issues. Occupy Sydney has heard from QANTAS workers, the fire fighters and the Maritime Union of Australia.

Trade unionists and workers who want to renew, re-energise and strengthen the labour movement need to join Occupy Sydney. At Occupy Sydney there can be cross-fertilisation of the experience of working class struggle with youthful optimism and energy. New activists can be recruited to the union movement.

Occupy Sydney presents an opportunity for the labour movement to garner public support and mature its agenda by more explicitly challenging power instead of restricting itself to economic demands. It is a chance to show that we as unionists, not the bosses and their politician friends, will side with the oppressed and exploited.

Workers and unions are potentially the strongest force which can help to reinforce the Occupy Sydney protest which highlights corporate excess and injustice. Ultimately the withdrawal of labour, or the threat of it, has been the way many of our wages and conditions have been won. In turn Occupy Sydney can help workers to reclaim the right to organise and take industrial action.

Unions are trying to defend wages, working conditions and job security whilst being crippled by federal laws, Fair Work Australia and the Australian Building and Construction Commission, and in NSW by Barry O'Farrell's industrial laws. The O'Farrell industrial relations legislation stripped much of our bargaining rights. O'Farrell unilaterally stripped the public sector of job security by shortening the retention period of excess officers.

The Occupy Sydney movement raises issues of power and social justice that should be at the heart of trade union activity to secure economic security, dignity and restore our rights to collective action.

Make two proposals to your union branch and executive:

- support the Occupy Sydney movement
- mobilise as large a union contingent as possible at the 5 November protest

More information:

<http://www.occupysydney.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=291378707558995>