
PSA Executive members must avoid, declare, and manage conflicts of interest.

***Progressive PSA* 9 October 2011**

Union members rightly express outrage at exorbitant corporate [Chief Executive Officer salaries](#). There is a stark contrast between the CEO salary increases which are “equivalent to more than twice the average annual wage, in the past year” and public sector workers who face a pay cap of 2.5% which is less than inflation. At least those remuneration packages are available for public scrutiny. That is not the case with the PSA top brass.

There has been much recent controversy about the allegedly irregular and possibly illegal activities of some union ‘bosses’ such as some of those in the Health Services Union. It is about time that highly paid PSA Executive members come clean about what remuneration they receive through being officials of the PSA. Those who occupy the positions of General Secretary, Assistant Secretary and President receive PSA salaries which are not on open record for members to scrutinise. Official salaries have for years been augmented by tens of thousands of dollars from their occupying paid union positions on various Boards of Management of state owned corporations such as Macquarie Generation, State Lotteries and WSN Waste Services.

It has been [Progressive PSA](#) policy to tie Executive salaries to that of equivalent work done by PSA members.

At least two current Executive members and one past General Secretary have until very recently held paid positions on the Board of the S G E Credit Union since 2000. SGE has been marketed in the PSA as “the credit union for PSA members”. Since losing control of the SGE Board which they shared with officials of the HSU and others, the General Secretary and President now want PSA members to ‘make the switch’ to the new preferred financial institution – the SCU Credit Union.

Contrary to a PSA Annual Conference resolution and potentially contrary to the NSW Industrial Relations Act several PSA Executive members have refused to disclose their potential conflicts of interest to members.

Our union will be stronger if there is appropriate disclosure of Executive Remuneration. The Progressives have long held that PSA Executive members must avoid, declare, and manage conflicts of interest.

“It’s trough at the top, even in lean times”

Ian McIlwraith, Philip Wen *October 8, 2011* SMH

“The heads of Australia's largest companies enjoyed pay rises almost three times the rate of inflation, and equivalent to more than twice the average annual wage, in the past year.” Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/its-trough-at-the-top-even-in-lean-times-20111007-1ldn0.html#ixzz1aKPsDGy9>

“Brother unions must end their silence on excess of others”

Julian Lee *September 22, 2011* SMH **Opinion**

“Unions are not-for-profit organisations established to provide greater bargaining power for workers and to protect their rights. They don’t have shareholders, they have members, and their executives are elected officials, not CEOs for hire competing in a global market for the highest bidder for their services.

Union members can chuck out their elected officials but incumbency has its advantages, not least of which is the use of union resources to bankroll re-election campaigns. True, the Fair Work Act regulates the activities of unions much like ASIC does companies but I would have expected more from organisations that all too readily claim the moral high ground when their corporate masters find themselves in the sin bin.” Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/brother-unions-must-end-their-silence-on-excess-of-others-20110921-1kl4f.html#ixzz1bGvoaLnc>

