



# member update



2011 has been another eventful year with Correctional Officers being the centre of some of the most public and controversial industrial relations events to take place in Tasmania in many years—with taking on anti-worker government actions and contributing to a high profile and long awaited review into operations at Risdon Prison Complex to name but a few of the challenges faced by United Voice members in recent times.

Here is an update of a couple of the key events to take place this year.....

## MEMBERS FIGHT FOR SAFETY AT WORK



It was a dark day for workers across Tasmania when Correctional Officers were stood down by their employer, a Labor/Green Government, for standing up for their safety at work.

After a disappointing result in the Commission, with members ordered back to work without any consideration given to their very valid concerns, a rally was held outside the Executive Building to call attention to this appalling treatment. The rally was well attended by members and their families, some of whom spoke about their concerns.



It was a fantastic show of solidarity, not only between Correctional Officers, but members of the public and workers across Tasmania.

## PALMER INQUIRY

After a number of serious incidents in the Tasmanian Prison system over recent years, Minister Nick McKim appointed former Police Chief Mick Palmer AO APM to conduct a review of the operations of the Risdon Prison Complex.

Mr Palmer's report has now been released, and contains a number of findings and recommendations around changes that would result in improvements to inmates experiences, management of the prison, and importantly, workplace safety and culture.

Mr Palmer says in his report "The Inquiry has identified a number of significant problems that need decisive and urgent action".

A number of Mr Palmer's findings are common with concerns raised by union members for a number of years, and it is encouraging to have this opportunity to finally resolve some of those issues.

A copy of the report and the Department's response to the recommendations can be viewed on the DOJ website, [www.justice.tas.gov.au](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au).

## Union Dues Increase

From July 1<sup>st</sup> union dues will increase in line with CPI.

The new rate for TCOA/United Voice members will be \$22.50 per fortnight.

If you have any questions please contact your union team on (03) 6220 3222.