

# PICKET LINE



Tom McKeon, Industrial Information Officer

## Training guarantee bill

I have received a draft of the Training Guarantee Bill. This Bill imposes a minimum training requirement on employers set at a percentage of an employer's annual national payroll. The rate is to be set at 1 per cent for the year commencing on 1 July 1990 and 1.5 per cent from 1 July 1992. Employers who spend less than this amount will be charged an amount equal to the shortfall.

Employers with annual national payrolls below \$200 000 will be exempt from the training guarantee. Specific exemptions are also given to public benevolent institutions and religious institutions.

Eligible training expenditure is broadly defined. It may include:

- money spent on determining the need for eligible training programs;
- money spent on developing and providing eligible training programs;
- salaries and wages of staff engaged in training;
- payment of fees including the Higher Education Contribution Scheme;
- amounts paid or donated to industry training bodies or tertiary education institutions.

An eligible training program can include both on-the-job and off-the-job training but must:

- be structured; and
- be designed to develop or improve employment related skills and competencies.

The training program must be either designed or approved by a person who has a knowledge of the subject area and has undertaken a short course on the design of training programs.

The Training Guarantee Bill is designed to increase the overall level of investment in training by employers.

Skill development will be enhanced by the use of structured training. These developments will complement the skill-related career paths promoted by award restructuring.

This Bill will need to be passed before the next budget. It may be modified by the Democrat controlled Senate.

## Legionnaires' disease — available publications

A code of practice for the control of legionnaires' disease hazards (1989) has been released by the Public Works Department, NSW.

This code covers the role, responsibility and duties of architects, maintenance engineers, building owners/managers and others in relation to methods and procedures for controlling and minimising Legionnaires' Disease hazards.

The code is available at a price of \$30. Enquiries regarding obtaining this publication may be made by telephoning (02) 228 5681.

A useful smaller summary document on dealing with these hazards is the *Australian guidelines for the control of legionella and legionnaires' disease* (1988). This is written for the lay person rather than the technical specialist. Advice is given on how to minimise potential contamination.

Copies are available from: The Secretary, Water Quality Committee, National Health and Medical Research Council, GPO Box 9848, Canberra, ACT 2601.

## Teacher-librarians in Victorian government schools

An agreement between the Teachers' Federation of Victoria and the Victorian Government on award restructuring for government school teachers was signed on 19 March 1990. This agreement will be placed before the Industrial Relations Commission of Victoria as the basis for a second 3 per cent pay rise. This rise will be available in late May, pending the Commission's approval.

Teacher-librarians are employed as teachers, and are not viewed as a separate entity under this agreement. Promotion is available to the higher levels offered by the newly created Advanced Skills Teacher category. Teachers must take 0.8 of a teaching load to be eligible for these promotions. As the library is defined as a classroom in this agreement, then teacher-librarians have access to the full range of promotional opportunities.

The working conditions of teacher-librarians will be on the agenda of the next round of negotiations be-

tween the unions and the Ministry of Education. The discussion on the unions' Log of Claims will provide more information on staffing levels and staffing ratios. ALIA and the School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) are making a joint submission to the Ministry of Education.

## SA Public Service

Negotiations between the Public Service Association and the Department of Personnel and Industrial Relations have led to agreement on the classification of librarians and library technicians. Librarians are to be placed in a common professional stream while library technicians are to be placed in an administrative stream.



## Books by the Balls

The Library Promotion Committee of South Australia is alive and well and on 7 March staged an enormously successful promotional event in Adelaide's main shopping area, Rundle Mall, next to the famous Silver Balls sculpture. Over 1500 books, donated by Hodder and Stoughton, were given away to members of the public: one to anyone who promised to join their local public library; two to anyone who knew where their local public library was; three to anyone who could produce their borrower's card.

Librarians mingled with the huge crowd of curious commuters and early morning shoppers (variously estimated between 1500 and 2000) wearing 'Am I your local Librarian?' — ask me' badges, and giving away books. The Minister of Local Government, Chairman of the Libraries Board of SA and the State Librarian all participated, resplendent in their 'Books by the Balls' T-shirts.

Contact Margaret Dunstone on (08) 348 2351 for more information and to order your pink, 'Books by the Balls' t-shirt — cost \$15.



Measuring efforts in the Not the Guinness Book of Records Book Stacking Competition.