

BUILDING WORKER

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MONTHLY



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

CFMEU

Transcript: Dean Hall's speech to the ACT National Day of Action Rally - June 20.

I know there's people in this crowd now who knew the worker who was killed at the hospital in Belconnen, who were there that night. I was there, and it's pretty confronting. It's confronting dealing with the families, and that goes on for years. There are some families that I first met when they lost their father, or their son, and I still talk to them almost every day.

That was 15 years ago, 10 years ago. It doesn't go away, it's a reality.

What they talk about, which is almost as bad if not worse - though it's hard to say that - when you talk about the workers in Canberra who've had injuries, they've done their backs badly and you know those people, or they've done their knees and shoulders and they can't work anymore. Or they walk in pain and suffering every day.

We elect Governments to protect us, the construction industry is a tough industry, and we'll go on and we'll fight. But at the moment, the Federal Government in safety is throwing everything at the CFMEU. They are stopping us entering for safety, we believe illegally, but we go to court we've had two major court cases that

have cost the union almost \$1 million and in both those court cases we've won. On the other side, they probably cost taxpayers another \$2 million to get the high-powered QC's in.

They hauled us before the court and challenged us on safety. They challenged our right to provide a safe workplace for our members, for the rest of the construction industry and for the community. They challenged us on that, and they use ACT workplace laws in safety to attack us. It is a shame. And that's what we want changed.

We need to make sure that the Government of the ACT does whatever it can do to allow us to protect ourselves on construction sites.

The reality is this. The Worksafe authority is broken. It needs to be fixed.

In Unity,

Watch Dean's full speech at act.cfmeu.org.au

\$20,000 DONATED TO THE KIDS HOSPITAL



Thanks to the generosity of our members and the ACT construction industry, Dean Hall attended the Centenary Hospital for Women & Children last week to hand over a GIANT cheque for \$20,000 to purchase more paediatric wheelchairs and some resuscitation equipment for the hospital's High Dependency Unit.

"Our workers have dug deep to look after the community" said CFMEU ACT Secretary, Dean Hall, "that's what we do: your family is our family... Through our Children's Healthcare Trust we continued to raise vital funds for sick kids. This is not our day to day work of negotiating wages or protecting safety, but it is one small and practical thing we can do to support our community"



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