

2 June 2014

Mr Chris S Read Branch Secretary United Firefighters' Union of Australia-New South Wales Branch ufuansw@gmail.com

Dear Mr Read,

United Firefighters' Union of Australia-New South Wales Branch Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2013 - [FR2013/208]

I acknowledge receipt of the financial report of the United Firefighters' Union of Australia-New South Wales Branch. The documents were lodged with the Fair Work Commission on 13 February 2014. The financial report has now been filed. You are not required to take any further action in respect of the report lodged. I make the following comments to assist you when you next prepare a financial report:

<u>Disclosure of employee benefits to office holders and other employees</u>

The Reporting Guidelines require reporting units to disclose in the income statement or in the notes to the financial statements employee benefits to holders of office (item 11(g)) and employee benefits to other employees (item 11(h)).

I note that the income statement identifies no full-time staff at point (7) of the Operating Report, and the names of office holders of the reporting unit at point (8). Employee benefits for office holders and other employees should be separately disclosed, or in the event where there are none, a statement to this effect should be included.

The financial report was filed based on a primary review. This involved confirming that the financial reporting timelines required under s.253, s.265, s.266 and s.268 of the *Fair Work* (*Registered Organisations*) *Act 2009* (RO Act) have been satisfied, all documents required under s.268 of the RO Act were lodged and that various disclosure requirements under the Australian Accounting Standards, RO Act and reporting guidelines have been complied with. A primary review does not examine all disclosure requirements.

Please note that the financial report for the year ending 30 June 2014 may be subject to an advanced compliance review.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact me on (03) 8661 7812 or via email at orgs@fwc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely Regulatory Compliance Branch Fair Work Commission

Email: orgs@fwc.gov.au

Internet: www.fwc.gov.au



13 February 2014

The General Manager Fair Work Commission

Attention:

Robert Pfeiffer

Senior Adviser

Regulatory Compliance Branch

By email:

robert.pfeiffer@fwc.gov.au

Dear Mr Pfeiffer,

Re: Failure to lodge audited financial report(s) - [FR2013/208]

I write in response to your letter of yesterday, 12 February 2014, which I note was mailed to an unrelated and incorrect email address. As previously advised, it would assist if all future correspondence is directed to the NSW Branch email address shown at the foot of this letter.

Please find attached the audited financial accounts and statements of the UFUA's NSW Branch for the year ended 30 June 2013 [FR2013/208], together with the associated Designated Officer's Certificate.

I apologise for this delay and note the various obligations of the NSW Branch as set out within your correspondence, neither of which would have been necessary had I lodged those documents as intended the day following the Special General Meeting of 13 January. I shall also be discussing your letter with the NSW Branch auditors in the hope that this and future years' NSW Branch accounts may be commenced as soon as possible following the conclusion of the financial year on 30 June and, it should follow, concluded well before December.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Read

Branch Secretary



13 February 2014

The General Manager Fair Work Commission

Re: Designated Officer's Certificate
Financial report for year ended 30 June 2013
Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 – (RO Act)

I, Chris Read, being the Branch Secretary of United Firefighters Union of Australia, New South Wales Branch certify:

- that the documents lodged herewith are copies of the full report, referred to in s268 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 being the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2013; and
- that the full report was provided to members on 20 December 2013; and
- that the full report was presented to a general meeting of members on 13 January 2014 in accordance with s266 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Read Branch Secretary

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

OPERATING REPORT

The Branch Committee of Management presents its operating report of the United Firefighters Union of Australia NSW Branch for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

- 1. The principal activity of the NSW Branch during 2012/2013 financial year was to remain registered under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009. There was no significant change to the nature of this activity from the previous financial year.
- A financial dispute in relation to capitation fees and ACTU Affiliation fees payable by the NSW Branch to the National Office was the subject of Federal Court proceedings initiated by the National Office in December 2009. These proceedings were discontinued by the National Office prior to hearing in August 2012.
- 3. The resignations which commenced in April 2010 continued, with the Branch experiencing a loss of a further 45 members during the 2012/2013 financial year.
- 4. The rights of members to resign from the NSW Branch by written notice addressed and delivered to the Branch Secretary are set out within Rule 8 of the Union's Registered Rules and section 174(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009. In accordance with section 174(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 a member of an organisation may resign from membership by written notice addressed and delivered to a person designated for the purpose in the rules of the organisation or a branch of the organisation.
- 5. There was known to be one officer of the NSW Branch, C. Read who during the financial year was a director of NSW Fire Brigades Superannuation Pty Ltd, being a company that is a trustee of a superannuation entity.
- 6. There were 401 members of the Branch as at 30 June 2013.
- 7. The number of staff employed by the Branch on a full time equivalent basis at 30 June 2013 was Nil.
- 8. The names of each person who were members of the Branch Committee of Management, at any time, during the financial year are as follows;-

D Harpley 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 G Matthews 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 C Read 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

9. Officers and Employees Who are Directors of a Company or a Member of a Board

Pursuant to section 37 of Reporting Guidelines apply for the purpose of section 253 of the RO Act 2009, the following officers and employees who are directors of a company or a member of a board:

Name of officer/employee	Name of company/board	Principal activities	Nominated by UFUA
C Read	NSW Fire Brigades Superannuation Pty Ltd	Trustee	No

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Branch Committee of Management

CHRIS READ

GREG MATTHEWS

19 December 2013

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT'S STATEMENT

On 19 December 2013 the Committee of Management of the United Firefighters Union of Australia, New South Wales Branch, passed the following resolution in relation to the general purpose financial report (GPFR) of the Branch for the year ended 30 June 2013.

The Committee of Management declares in relation to the GPFR that in its opinion:

- (a) the financial report and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards;
- (b) the financial report and notes comply with the reporting guidelines of the General Manager of Fair Work Australia;
- (c) the financial report and notes give a true and fair view of the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the Branch for the financial year ended 30 June 2013;
- (d) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Branch will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- (e) during the financial year ended 30 June 2013 and since the end of the financial year:
 - (i) meetings of the Committee of Management were held in accordance with the rules of the organisation and the rules of the Branch; and
 - (ii) the financial affairs of the Branch have been managed in accordance with the rules of the organisation and the rules of the Branch; and
 - (iii) the financial records of the Branch have been kept and maintained in accordance with the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 and the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009; and
 - (iv) the financial records of the Branch have been kept, as far as practicable, in a consistent manner to each of the other branches of the organisation; and
 - (v) no information has been sought in any request of a member of the Branch or a Registrar under section 272 of General Manager of Fair Work Australia under section 272 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009; and
 - (vi) no order for inspection of the financial records has been made by Fair Work Australia under section 273 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.
- (f) in relation to recovery of wages activity:
 - (i) the financial report on recovery of wages activity has been fairly and accurately prepared in accordance with the requirements of the reporting guidelines of the General Manager; and
 - (ii) the committee of management instructed the auditor to include in the scope of the audit required under subsection 257(1) of the RO Act all recovery of wages activity by the reporting unit from which revenues had been derived for the financial year in respect of such activity; and
 - (iii) no fees or reimbursements of expenses in relation to recovery of wages activity or donations or other contributions were deducted from monies recovered from employers on behalf of workers other than reported in the

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

- financial report on recovery of wages activity and the notes to the financial statements; and
- (iv) that prior to engaging in any recovery of wages activity, the organisation has disclosed to members by way of a written policy all fees to be charged or reimbursement of expenses required for recovery of wages activity, and any likely request for donations or other contributions in acting for a worker in recovery of wages activity; and
- (v) no fees or reimbursements of expenses in relation to recovery of wages activity or donations or other contributions were deducted from monies recovered from employers on behalf of workers until distributions of recovered money were made to the workers.

For the Committee of Management

CHRIS RÉAD

19 December 2013

GREG WATTHEW

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
INCOME			
Interest Income		26	7
Membership Dues) .	26	28,294
EXPENDITURE			ū.
Audit Fees Capitation Fees - UFUA National Office Internet and Web Hosting		1,500 5,194	1,250 12,870 255
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	28	6,694	14,375
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR YEAR	85	(6,668)	13,926
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		 .	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) / INCOME	-	(6,668)	13,926

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS Cash at Bank		24,579	28,303
Receivables	3	76,421	75,901
TOTAL ASSETS		100,480	104,204
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES	4	116 220	112 766
Payables	4	116,230	112,766
TOTAL LIABILITIES		116,230	112,766
NET LIABILITIES		(15,230)	(8,562)
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT		(15,230)	(8,562)
	•		

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Accumulated Deficit \$
Balance at 30 June 2011	(22,488)
Net Surplus for the Year	13,926
Balance at 30 June 2012	(8,562)
Net Deficit for the Year	(6,668)
Balance at 30 June 2013	(15,230)

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES Membership Dues Interest Received Payments to Suppliers		375 26 (4,125)	31,124 7 (3,101)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	6(b)	(3,724)	28,030
NET INCREASE IN CASH		(3,724)	28,030
Cash at Beginning of Year		28,303	273
CASH AT END OF YEAR	6(a)	24,579	28,303

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is for the New South Wales Branch of the United Firefighters Union of Australia, and in accordance with the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 the Branch is a reporting unit. The United Firefighters Union of Australia is an organisation registered under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009. The New South Wales Branch is a Branch of the registered organisation. In accordance with the Act the Union is a body corporate and has perpetual succession. By virtue of this method of incorporation, the Union and the New South Wales Branch are not subject to the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Going Concern

The United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch has a deficit of \$6,668 (2012 \$1,474) for the year ended 30 June 2013 and had net liabilities of \$15,240 (2012 \$10,036) as at 30 June 2013. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis due to the factors referred to in Note 9. The Branch Committee of Management has assessed and considered it appropriate for the accounts to be prepared on this basis.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

The reporting guidelines made under section 255 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the RO Act) require all reporting units to apply the Tier 1 reporting requirements as per Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1053 Application for Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards. As such the National Executive of the Australian Workers' Union (National Office) have prepared a full set of financial statements with all disclosure requirements. In the prior year the National Executive had early adopted Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements but this is no longer permissible. This has had no material impact on amounts recognised in the financial statements because it merely requires a more detailed note disclosure on financial risk management than if these financial statements were prepared using Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected financial assets for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Branch in the preparation of the financial report.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

(a) Revenue

Revenues are accounted for on an accrual basis.

(b) Income tax

No provision for Income Tax is necessary as Industrial Trade Unions are exempt from Income Tax under Section 50-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c) Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Effective

There has been no accounting standards issued which will impact the financial report in future periods and which are not yet effective.

(d) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables on the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

2. ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

(a) Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Branch makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates by definition seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities.

(b) Critical judgments in applying the Branch's accounting principles

There are no critical judgements that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

3. RECEIVABLES

	2013 \$	2012 \$
United Firefighters Union of Australia – National Office New South Wales Fire Brigade Employees Union -	79,526	79,526
Adam Bandt Consultancy	2,563	2,563
Allowance for doubtful debts – UFUA National Office Sundry Debtors	(7,475) 1,807	(7,475) 1,287
	76,421	75,901

An allowance for doubtful debts has been booked in the accounts representing a disputed net receivable amount from the National Office which was subject to legal action at balance date. The legal action was in relation to a financial dispute regarding capitation fees and ACTU Affiliation fees payable by the NSW Branch to the National Office. The legal action was initiated in December 2009 by the National Office in the Federal Court. These proceedings were subsequently discontinued by the National Office prior to hearing in August 2012. No amounts have since been received from the United Firefighters Union of Australia NSW Branch.

4. PAYABLES

	2013 \$	2012 \$
United Firefighters Union of Australia – National Office Sundry payable	113,445 2,785	107,731 5,035
	116,230	112,766

5. INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OR THE GENERAL MANAGER OF FAIR WORK AUSTRALIA

In accordance with the requirements of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009, the attention of members is drawn to the provisions of Sub-Sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 272 which read as follows:-

- (1) A member of a reporting unit, or the General manger, may apply to the reporting unit for specified prescribed information in relation to the reporting unit to be made available to the person making the application.
- (2) The application must be in writing and must specify the period within which, and the manner in which, the information is to be made available. The period must not be less than 14 days after the application is given to the reporting unit.
- (3) A Reporting unit must comply with an application made under subsection (1).

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

6.	CASH FLOW INFORMATION	2013 \$	2012 \$
(a)	For the purposes of the cash flow statement cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks and other financial institutions.	·	·
	Cash at Bank	24,579	28,303
(b)	Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with operating result		
	Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,474)	13,926
	Changes in Assets and Liabilities (Increase) Decrease in Receivables	_	(1,287)
	(Decrease)/Increase in payables	(2,250)	15,391
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATIONS	(3,724)	28,030

7. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) General objectives, policies and processes

The union is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the union's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them.

There have been no substantive changes in the union's exposure to financial instrument risk, its objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks or the methods used to measure them from previous periods unless otherwise stated in this note.

The union's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks and payables. The main risks the union is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk (see section (e) below), liquidity risk and credit risk.

The committee of management has overall responsibility for the determination of the union's risk management objectives and policies and whilst retaining ultimate responsibility for them, the committee of management makes investment decisions after considering appropriate advice.

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligation resulting in the union incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors fail to settle their obligations owing to the union.

There is no concentration of credit risk with respect to current and non-current receivables.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

7. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets, net of any provision for doubtful debts, as disclosed below:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank	24,579	28,303
	24,579	28,303

The cash and cash equivalents are held in high quality Australian financial institutions.

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the union may encounter difficulties raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial liabilities.

The union is not significantly exposed to this risk, as at 30 June 2013 it had \$24,579 (2012: \$28,303) of cash and cash equivalents to meet these obligations as they fall due. Financial liabilities at 30 June 2013 totalled \$116,230 (2012: \$112,766).

(d) Market Risk

Market risk arises from the use of interest bearing, tradable financial instruments. It is the risk that the fair value or future cashflows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in interest rates (interest rate risk) or other market factors (other price risk).

(e) Interest Rate Risk

The Union's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on those financial assets and liabilities are summarised below:

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

7. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

30 June 2013	Floating interest rate	Non interest bearing	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets Cash Sundry Debtors	24,579	- 76,421	24,579 76,421
	24,579	76,421	101,000
Weighted average interest rate	0.01%		
Financial Liabilities			
Payables		110,516	110,516
		110,516	110,516
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities)	24,579	(34,095)	(9,516)
30 June 2012	Floating interest rate	Non interest bearing	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets Cash Sundry Debtors	28,303	75,901	28,303 75,901
	28,303	75,901	104,204
Weighted average interest rate	0.01%		
Financial Liabilities			
Payables	<u></u>	112,766	112,766
	-	112,766	112,766
Net Financial Assets/(Liabilities)	28,303	(36,865)	(8,562)

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

7. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

(e) Interest Rate Risk

Sensitivity Analysis

2013	Carrying Amount	+1% (100 Basis Points) Profit	-1% (100 Basis Points) Loss
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 24,579	\$ 246	\$ (246)
2012	Carrying Amount	+1% (100 Basis	-1% (100 Basis
	\$	Points) Profit \$	Points) Loss \$
Cash and cash equivalents	28,303	283	(283)

(f) Other Price Risks

The union does not invest in shares or derivatives therefore it does not expose itself to the fluctuations in price that are inherent in such a market.

(g) Foreign Exchange Risk

The union is not directly exposed to foreign exchange rate risk.

8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with related parties are on normal terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties, unless otherwise stated.

- (a) UFUA National Office Capitation Fees and ACTU Affiliation Fees are disclosed as expenses in the statement of comprehensive income and as a payment in the statement of cash flows.
- (b) UFUA National Office Capitation Fees payable are disclosed at Note 4 of the accounts.
- (c) UFUA National Office ACTU Affiliation Fees receivable are disclosed at Note 3 of the accounts.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013 (Cont'd)

9. FINANCIAL DEPENDENCE

The United Firefighters Union of Australia's NSW Branch was previously dependent upon the financial support of the New South Wales Fire Brigade Employees' Union in order to pay its debts as and when they fell due. On 22 April 2010 the New South Wales Fire Brigade Employees' Union resolved to cease forwarding funds to the NSW Branch.

On 17 February 2012 Fair Work Australia certified various amendments to Schedule 1, Branch Rules of the United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch, including a new sub-rule which for the first time set annual membership subscription fees for NSW Branch members. These new membership fees will, if paid, allow the NSW Branch to meet all anticipated debts and liabilities.

10. REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office and principal place of business of the Branch is:

145 De Boss Street Temora NSW 2666



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd ACN 130 913 594

Level 19, 2 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000 Locked Bag Q800 QVB Post Office Sydney NSW 1230

T +61 2 8297 2400 F +61 2 9299 4445 E info.nsw@au.gt.com W www.grantthornton.com.au

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch

We have audited the accompanying financial report of United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch (the "Union"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information to the financial report and the statement by the Branch Committee of Management.

Responsibility of the Branch Committee of Management and Branch Secretary for the financial report

The Branch Committee of Management of the Union is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009, all requirements of Part 3 of Chapter 8 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009. This responsibility includes such internal controls as the Branch Committee of Management determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

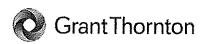
Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

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In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Union's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Union's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Branch Committee of Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies and the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch

- i presents fairly, in all material respects, the Union's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- ii complies with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009 and the requirement imposed by Part 3 Chapter 8 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009;

Emphasis of matter

Without qualification we draw attention to note 1 which states The United Firefighters Union of Australia New South Wales Branch has a deficit of \$ 6668 (2012 \$1,474) for the year ended 30 June 2013 and had net liabilities of \$15,230 as at 30 June 2013. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis due to the factors referred to in Note 1 and Note 9. The Branch Committee of Management has assessed and considered it appropriate for the accounts to be prepared on this basis.

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD

Chartered Accountants

Neville Sinclair

Partner - Audit & Assurance Sydney, 20 December 2013



Telephone: (03) 8661 7777

Facsimile: (03) 9655 0410

Email: orgs@fwc.gov.au

12 February 2014

Mr Chris S Read Branch Secretary United Firefighters' Union of Australia-New South Wales Branch

Sent by email: office@fbeu.net

Dear Mr Read,

Failure to lodge audited financial report(s) - [FR2013/208]

Our records indicate that the New South Wales Branch of the United Firefighters' Union of Australia (the reporting unit) has failed to lodge its audited financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2013 despite the Fair Work Commission reminding the reporting unit of its obligation to do so by letter dated 12 July 2013.

As you have previously been advised, section 268 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act* 2009 (the RO Act) requires reporting units to lodge an audited financial report with the Fair Work Commission within a maximum of 6 months and 14 days of the end of their financial year. In this case, that was no later than 14 January 2014.

Paragraph 7.4 of the FWC Regulatory Compliance Policy (a copy of which is attached) states as follows:

- 7.4 Where the possible contravention involves failure by an organisation, branch or reporting unit to lodge a matter with FWC in accordance with the timeframes specified in the RO Act, RO Regulations or the rules of the organisation, branch or reporting unit:
 - a. The Regulatory Compliance Branch will contact the organisation, branch or reporting unit, by telephone and/or in writing, within two weeks to advise that lodgement is overdue;
 - b. If lodgement has not occurred within one month of the timeframe specified in the RO Act, RO Regulations or rules, the Regulatory Compliance Branch will advise the organisation, branch or reporting unit that it is seeking voluntary compliance within a specified timeframe and that, in the absence of such voluntary compliance without cause, FWC will commence an inquiry or investigation or initiate court proceedings; and
 - c. If lodgement has not occurred within the timeframe specified in the correspondence referred to in paragraph b and the organisation, branch or reporting unit has not been able to show cause regarding why it should not do so, FWC will commence an inquiry or investigation or initiate court proceedings in accordance with this policy as soon as reasonably practicable.

Section 331 of the RO Act empowers the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission to investigate compliance by a reporting unit (such as the New South Wales Branch), its officers, employees and auditor(s) with:

- Part 3 of Chapter 8 of the RO Act;
- the reporting guidelines made under that Part;
- the regulations made for the purposes of that Part;
- the organisation's rules regarding finances and financial administration; and
- civil penalty provisions of the RO Act (see s.305).

In accordance with the processes specified in paragraph 7.4(b) of the *FWC Regulatory Compliance Policy* which are set out above, the reporting unit is required to lodge its outstanding audited financial report with the Fair Work Commission by no later than 21 February 2014.

Should the reporting unit fail to do so without reasonable cause, the General Manager or her Delegate may commence an investigation under s.331 of the RO Act without further notice.

Should you seek any clarification in relation to the above, please contact me on (03) 8661 7936 or via email at robert.pfeiffer@fwc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Pfeiffer Senior Adviser

Regulatory Compliance Branch

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