



30 September 2024

Unions continue to deliver workplace agreements & higher wages

The latest wages and collective bargaining report from the [Department of Employment and Workplace Relations](#) provides yet another stark example of the difference union membership makes. Pay rises have hit a 12-year high with union negotiated agreements once again exceeding non-union wage deals.

Unions [campaigning long and hard for fairer bargaining laws](#), and the federal government reforms of the last 2 years are now paying off for workers and their families. The number of workers covered by agreements surged by over 400,000 workers in just the last 12 months.

The IEU has an outstanding record of collective bargaining success negotiating over 800 separate collective agreements delivering better pay and conditions. New workplace laws have helped our union extend the benefits of bargaining into [areas previously left behind](#).

Average private sector pay rises have reached the highest level since 2012. And the union wage premium continues to deliver better outcomes. Union members secured average increases of 4% compared to 3% for non-union deals.

The total number of workers covered by collective agreements rose sharply from 1.79 million in June 2023 to 2.21 million workers in June this year.

472,500 workers in the education sector now have the financial security of a collective agreement.

While challenges remain with bargaining, the Labor government's changes to workplace laws have made a big difference as union members and employers develop more agreements. At a time of cost-of-living pressures, this union wage premium is delivering crucial relief to union members and their families.