

RIG WORKERS VOICE



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Rig Workers Meeting a Great Success

Workers from five rigs attended a meeting in Fremantle on the 2nd of February to hear reports from AWU/MUA Alliance officials on the many positive developments in the campaign to organise workers in the exploration industry. Alliance Officials attending the meeting were Ian Bray, Stephen Price, Chris Cain, Allen Wattam, Mahmut Melkic and Glen Williams who all spoke about the need to unite as one and fight for a fair go for rig workers.

Alliance Organisers Glen Williams and Mahmut “Hammer” Melkic reported on the current progress being made on several collective agreement negotiations aimed at improving employment conditions in the industry, delivering decent wage outcomes and improving job security for Alliance members. It was also reported that membership of the Alliance continues to grow with many rigs now having a majority of workers as members of the union.

Alliance members were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the officials on a range of issues. Of the main concerns to the members present was the need to better communicate between rigs, members and the officials, to improve the flow of information and build a network amongst rig workers. A great way for members to communicate with each and build networks with others and to discuss issues on their rigs or to share thoughts and information is to access the Offshore Alliance Facebook page on the net. Also you can access information about YOUR union on our webpage's at www.awu.net.au and www.mua.org.au.

Many other issues were raised by the members including helicopter safety, the need to have Worksafe accredited training and certification for rig workers, MSIC cards and the West Atlas disaster which highlighted the inherent dangers that offshore workers face on a daily basis. All of these concerns will be followed up and further report backs will be given at future meetings.

Whilst the numbers were not what we would have expected, given the activity in the industry and the amount of workers joining the Alliance, regular meetings will continue to be held to keep members informed of the how campaign is going and to give everyone an opportunity to voice your opinions and have your voice heard. We congratulate all of the members who turned up and look forward to seeing even more rig workers at the next meeting.

The MUA-AWU Offshore Alliance is YOUR voice!!

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