



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

By e-mail amwu2@amwu.asn.au

September 4, 2007

Cochlear Workers
c/o Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
National Office
133 Parramatta Road
Granville NSW 2142
Australia

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), a national union that represents over 160,000 workers in a wide range of services and industries across each of Canada's provinces and territories.

I'm writing to you to express our solidarity with you and to share our outrage that your employer, Cochlear Ltd., has sought to break your union and impose individual contracts upon you. This form of conduct is outrageous, being a direct attack on working people and their families and their communities, all intended to profit and benefit a tiny economic elite.

Australia is a signatory to Convention No. 87 of the International Labour Organization. Passed in 1948, Convention 87 was finally adopted by Australia in 1974, over 25 years after it was first passed. And now, over 25 years after adopting and becoming bound by ILO Convention No. 87, it appears that the Australian government is seeking to retreat from its international legal agreements and obligations by outright attacking the right and ability of Australian workers like yourselves to organize into effective unions and collectively bargain fair working conditions with your employers.

And it appears equally clear that employers like Cochlear are only too willing to take advantage of the misconduct of your national government and its assault on working people. This sort of behaviour should not be tolerated. It should not be accepted.

The international labour movement exists to promote global solidarity amongst workers, and it is a first principle of this movement that workers have the right to organize into unions and to collectively bargain, rather than having

employer-friendly individual contracts shoved down their throats, one worker at a time.

You have the power to resist brothers and sisters! You have the collective power to make the employer back down from its effort to break your union. There can be no peace until there is justice and your right to unionize is given the respect that it deserves; the respect that you demand. Your solidarity, along with the solidarity of sisters and brothers around the world, will make this happen!

The members of the PSAC stand together with you in solidarity and in disgusted outrage at the appalling, virtually criminal assault that has been perpetrated against the working people of Australia. It is our hope that by your strength, your example, and your leadership – all Australian workers and trade unionists will raise their fists in the air and say “Enough - this stops NOW!”

You have our support. Stay strong. Stay united. Fight for what is right and just sisters and brothers. We will be watching from across the world and doing all that we can do to help you and to bring attention to your struggle.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

John Gordon
National President

c.c. Chris Roberts, CEO, Cochlear Ltd.
PSI Canadian Affiliates
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news@imfmetal.org