

The Hon John Rau MP




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**Government
of South Australia**

Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice Reform
Minister for Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Child Protection
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Minister for the Public Sector
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Associate to Vice President Hatcher
Fair Work Commission
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AM2016/36 - Blood Donor Leave

I refer to the application of the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) to vary a number of modern awards to include blood donor leave (BDL).

I have had the benefit of reading the letter of support from the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, Victorian Government, relating to the SDA application, and the South Australian Government concurs with the Minister's sentiments.

Prior to South Australia's referral of certain industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth, several of our state awards contained BDL provisions. The SDA application reinstates that entitlement for many of our private sector workers.

It has been a longstanding and continuing South Australian Government policy for public sector employees to have access to special leave with pay for the purpose of donating blood during working hours if necessary. BDL provisions are also a feature of some of our state awards and enterprise agreements applicable to the local government sector.

BDL allows workers to engage in a vital public service at a time when blood donation services are open to the public provided they are structured in such a way to allow for the donation to occur at a time that is agreeable and convenient to the employer.

Therefore I support the SDA's application and ask the Fair Work Commission to include a suitable provision for blood donation in modern awards listed in the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rau".

John Rau
Deputy Premier
Minister for Industrial Relations