



Fiji Teachers Union

(The Child Our Hope)



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NEWSLETTER

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MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME

The Scheme, which is the first of its kind, came into effect from July 1st, 2011 and is now operating successfully.

As of date, 2 members have been sent overseas for treatment, 5 have been treated locally and 4 claims are in process. Two members will be leaving for India shortly.

New Members joining the Insurance Scheme will have a 12 month waiting period if they have been in the service for more than one year.

Those in service and wanting to join the Scheme now will have to get clearance from FTU Doctor.

The Secretariat has written to the School Reps requesting for relevant information from the members to facilitate the Insurance Cards.

Members are asked to expedite the same to enable us to get the cards done.

Please note that in emergency cases you are to call Insurance Holdings [Fiji] Limited:

William Steiner 999 0913 [M]

Karuna Segran 999 2161 [M]

Members who have been on the Executive and Term Life Covers continue to enjoy the services at a cheaper premium.

REMINDER - Inform the secretariat immediately if there is a change in the marital status.

MUTUAL AID BENEFIT SCHEME

Referral must be obtained from FTU nominated doctors for all specialist treatments and blood tests / scanning.

GOVERNMENT STOPS CHECK - OFF SYSTEM

Government stopped the "check-off" system [deduction \$3.32 for union subscription] from pay 16, 4/8/2011.

Most of the members are now paying their union dues through CTCL.

Those who were not members of the Credit Union are now joining CTCL and are paying their union dues through CTCL. Those who have not completed CTCL membership forms are requested to contact the branch executives and do the needful.

Members are reminded to settle the arrears of MABS, Insurance and Union subs for Pay 16.

Payments could be made at the HQ, or arrears deposited in FTU A/C No.11,040893 at ANZ and a copy of the deposit slip to be sent to the HQ. For any queries on the amount due etc, please call the Secretariat on phone 3314099 or 9928096 and ask for Archana or Priya.





ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR

FTU, in conjunction with FTUC / ILO will train Head Teachers of selected schools in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions to identify children "at risk" of dropping out of school due to financial constraints.

It is envisaged that directly 300 disadvantaged children between 6 to 14 years of age will be prevented from entering into child labour through a school based approach, targeting 30 of the most vulnerable primary schools in the three divisions.

The targeted children will be provided with education support such as subsidies for exercise books and school uniforms. In addition, counselling support will be organized for at-risk children during the school holidays.

POST PROCESSING

Ministry has processed most of the posts that were advertised in 2010. It is envisaged that 2011 vacancies would also be processed before the new school year.

TRANSFER POLICY

The Minister for Education had announced earlier this year that teachers who had served seven and more years in a school would be transferred to a new school. The Ministry is required to pay transfer allowance to all those who qualify.

WITHDRAWAL

Please note that as per the Union's Constitution Part III Section 11 and as per the 2011 AGM decision, all members are covered by the In-House Insurance Scheme.

Members withdrawing from the Scheme are to note that their cover ceases when the Ministry stops the premium deductions.

In between the period they write and the Ministry stopping the deduction, they are fully

covered and therefore they are not eligible for refunds. Only those withdrawing because they have a Medical Insurance Policy elsewhere are entitled for a refund.

ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The Union has continuously reminded the Ministry that acting appointments be made on merit.

At times the Ministry breached its own policies on acting appointments.

It is imperative that the most suitable / capable officer in the grade immediately below the grade in which the post has become vacant be appointed to act.

It is also important that those appointed to act must meet the MQR for that position.

JEE 2003 AND MERIT INCREASE

The Union has once again made submissions to PSC to implement the 2003 JEE and to also consider paying salary increase, which is overdue by 6 years.

REMINDER

Members are once again reminded that the Secretariat must be informed of any change in postal address, school and ED Grade.

School Reps are requested to assist in this area.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing all the members a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Enjoy the much deserved Holiday!!!!

OFFICE CLOSURE

The FTU Office closes on 22/12/2011 and re-opens on 09/01/2012.