

MEDIA RELEASE

SUNDAY 6 MAY, 2018

### **May Day Rally Highlights Exploitation of Workers**

Today's May Day rally will see thousands of people march through Sydney to celebrate the achievements of the union movement, and to protest against exploitation.

Unions NSW Secretary Mark Morey said annual May Day rallies have been held around Australia since 1890.

"The annual May Day rally reminds us of the great achievements working people have made in Australia – including things like the eight-hour day, annual leave, sick leave, paid maternity leave, safer workplaces, medicare and superannuation.

"But May Day also reminds us of the many challenges that working people are still facing today.

"Exploitation is still rife across many parts of our economy.

"In recent times we've seen workers being systematically underpaid in service stations, convenience stores and fast food chains. We've uncovered countless stories of wage theft in the hospitality and agriculture sectors.

"And we've discovered workers in the so-called 'gig economy' working long hours for next to nothing, without any of the basic working rights that most employees take for granted.

"Australia should be better than this. Exploitation has no place in a country that values the fair go.

"That's why the role of the trade union movement is as important today as it has ever been."

### **May Day Rally Program:**

11.00AM Marchers gather at Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park North

12.00PM Welcome to Country

12.20PM Speeches commence. Speakers will include Will Adams (Black Lives Matter) Allison Cruze (FSU), Luke Allen (CFMEU), Corinne Martyn (NUW), Giovanna Bonelli (RTBU) and Mark Morey (Unions NSW). Compere will be comedian Corinne Grant.

12.40PM March commences - to finish with a family BBQ at Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills.

Further comment: Mark Morey 0425 231 812