United Services Union

Stop Abuse at Work

USU Delegates petition contact guide

Thanks for putting your hand up. For the next month, you're the go-to person for the petition at your council or worksite. Your USU organiser will check in with you and collect the petition at the end.

Why it matters

Retail workers have a law. Council workers don't. Since 2023, assaulting, harassing or intimidating a retail worker has been a specific criminal offence in NSW. Council workers face the same abuse with none of that protection.

In our survey of 1,069 local government workers across 56 NSW councils:

- **64%** had been threatened or abused at work in the last 12 months
- **43%** cop it every month, every week or every day
- **95%** want the law changed to protect council workers

If we reach **10,000 signatures on paper**, the petition forces a debate in NSW Parliament.

Getting started

1. **Watch the campaign video.** It has real stories from council workers you can share.
2. **Print the petition and flyer.**
3. **Put your name on the flyer** and put it up so workers know who to find.

The petition

- **Anyone can sign,** members and non-members.
- **Original pages only,** with the petition wording at the top. No copies.
- **Keep it with you.** It holds people's personal details, so don't leave it lying around.

Start the conversation

Abuse from the public is felt across every part of council: customer service, libraries, rangers, outdoor crews, pools and depots. Most people will have a story. It starts with one easy question:

> ***"Did you know retail workers have legal protection from customer abuse, and council workers don't?"***

Then give them something they can do about it: sign the petition. Share a story from the video, or your own, and ask about theirs.

Grow the union

Non-members are already reaching out to the USU about this campaign.

- **Ask them to sign first.** Everyone can.
- **Then talk about why it matters.** Campaigns like this only happen because workers stand together in their union.
- **Interested in joining?**

Thank you for taking this campaign into workplaces across NSW.