



MEDIA RELEASE

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MEAT WORKERS LOCKED OUT FOR A WEEK

With only two weeks to go until Christmas, 140 workers at the major meat supplier to Coles Supermarkets remain locked out of their workplace without pay.

NUW State Secretary Tim Kennedy said Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews and Shadow Attorney General Martin Pakula visited the cold storage meat workers out the front of Swift Australia in Brooklyn today.

“Swift is the world’s largest meat company yet they’re behaving like the Christmas Grinch,” Mr Kennedy said.

“Our members have been locked out for a week so it was great to get the support from Daniel and Martin today.”

Swift Australia’s cold storage workers have been locked out for refusing to accept a paltry 2% pay rise and for being forced to work every Saturday at lower rates of pay.

“As Australian families prepare for Christmas festivities our members are locked out of work without pay,” Mr Kennedy said.

“The company would rather have its workers locked out without pay this Christmas than offer a fair and reasonable pay deal.”

Mr Kennedy said workers had been locked out for asking for a fair deal.

“The pay offer will send workers and their families backwards at a time when workers are facing real cost of living pressures through higher interest rates, water and electricity bills.”

“We will continue to negotiate with the company to get a better deal for our members.”

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