

Fact Sheet

What's a Union

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A union is a collective of workers who work in a particular industry, for example the finance sector.

Individual workers don't have much power to challenge decisions taken by your employer, even if you think it is wrong or illegal.

A union allows workers to come together as a collective and by working together we can improve your working conditions or challenge decisions without the vulnerability you have doing this as an individual.

After all, your employer is more likely to take things seriously when there are a large proportion of their workforce saying the same thing.



Why Should I Join?

Being part of a union means that you're supporting your workmates and you know that your workmates will support you.

When you don't have any power as an individual it is comforting to know that working as a collective levels the playing field with an employer who otherwise has all the power.

Every person who decides to join the union strengthens the collective, while those who choose to sit on the sidelines weaken the collective.

Unions work to provide support to their members:

- » **individually** – when you have a problem you have a large organisation to turn to for advice and support;
- » **at a workplace level** – through negotiating your pay and conditions as well as working through workplace issues like finishing work on time and having a safe work environment;
- » **at an industry level** – we are always working to ensure that the minimum standards in the finance industry are continuously improving;
- » **and to remove inequality in society** – unions play an important part in civil society and we know that where there are strong unions there is a smaller gap between the rich and the poor and there is a stronger safety net.

How Do I Find Out More?

You can talk to your local FSU Representative, your Organiser, or contact the FSU via phone 1300 366 378 or email fsuinfo@fsunion.org.au. You can also follow us on social media.

 Finance Sector Union

 @fsunion

 @FSU_Australia

 www.fsunion.org.au