

# SMASHING LOW PAY!

## JB HI FI WORKERS NEWS #7



## SUPPORT FOR WORKERS GROWS- 5,000 CUSTOMERS NOW SIGNED UP TO BOYCOTT JB!

More and more people are supporting the fight by JB workers for a fair pay increase- and over 5,000 customers have signed a petition to retiring CEO Richard Uechtritz to come back to the table with the Union and give the workers a 50c increase. Since May 1st, the Queen Street store in Auckland has been picketed by union supporters and activists every Saturday, who have given out thousands of leaflets and stickers to customers and passers by, explaining how much money JB is making, and how little they pay their workers. These customers have now refused to shop with JB, and workers at Queen Street report that Saturday sales are down. Queen St picketers estimate they turn away about 200 customers on every picket- so each protest is having an economic effect.

The pickets are now going to spread to other JB stores, and will also happen on other days and for longer shifts. The union has the resources to keep the pickets, protests and publicity up for the long haul. The new incoming CEO should do the smart thing and succeed where Richard Uechtritz has failed.

**CRAZY! \$200,000 IS HOW MUCH IT WILL COST JB HI-FI TO GIVE THE PAY INCREASE TO ITS WORKERS. IF THEY DON'T, THEY WILL LOSE MORE THAN \$200,000 IN SALES AS CUSTOMERS JOIN THE BOYCOTT.**



**WORKERS STRIKE, COMMUNITY PICKETS, CUSTOMERS BOYCOTT.**

Thanks for all the feedback about the strikes in Albany and Welly, we have passed on your support to the workers who took action! Low paid workers can't afford to strike for very long- but when they do, Unite gets them maximum support and media.

That's why we are stepping up the community pickets. The aim is to get more customers to support the workers demand for a fair pay increase. At a meeting of Unite on Campus on Auckland University, 300 students pledged to boycott JB hifi. The student branch will now organise solidarity pickets during week days. We will have the pickets on for longer, on new days and at new stores.

**Txt 021 1861450 to help support.**

**MANAGEMENT NEEDS TO TIGHTEN UP DISCIPLINAIRES**

Week in, week out, the Union is there for workers as individual problems arise, and a lot of this work goes on beneath the surface. Unite has helped to educate thousands of managers in New Zealand about workers rights and employment law, and has won tens of thousands of dollars for its members in compensation, backpay and exit packages. We are here to help all our members with any problems they have- be it hours being cut, problems on the shop floor, or fighting for better pay and commission.

One of the biggest problem workers have in New Zealand with management is unfair disciplinary procedures. Many young retail managers would have their decisions overturned if they were examined by mediators or employment lawyers. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, or given a verbal or written warning for something that you thought didn't warrant it - contact Joe at [joseph@unite.org.nz](mailto:joseph@unite.org.nz) or 029 44 55 702.

Unions aren't just about getting members better pay- we also want better conditions for workers. We spent a lot of our life at work- we deserve to be treated with respect, and employers must obey the law. A wrong decision by a manager can cost a company thousands of dollars in compensation to a worker :-)

Last week, a case Unite took for a JB worker to mediation resulted in an outcome satisfactory to both parties.

**JB STRIKERS FEATURED ON THE TV3 CURRENT AFFAIRS SHOW THE NATION. WATCH:**

<http://bit.ly/adl8VM>