

# WORKING FOR THE WORKERS... A LIFETIME COMMITMENT



It's the end of an era – after 30 years in Federal Parliament, Brian Harradine decided in 2004 not to seek another term in the Senate. However he is continuing to serve his elected term on the SDA State Council, as well as the Intelligent Island Committee.

Brian has carved a colourful history in his enduring quest to achieve better conditions for workers.

On gaining the top position in the Tasmanian Trades and Labor Council (the state's peak union body) in 1972, he was instrumental in organising workers into unions and setting minimum wages and entitlements under the previous State Wages Board.

Brian played a vital role in establishing prominent unions such as the SDA, Federated Clerks Union and the Australian Bank Employees Union.

Following conflict with the ALP, Brian then entered the Senate as an Independent and served the Australian electorate for 30 years.

His countless major achievements included –

- Being instrumental in setting up and continuing the Freight Equalisation Scheme that gave parity with other states – an extremely important economic factor in Tasmania's shipping of freight for many years.

- Worked tirelessly to ensure only proper legislation passed the Senate for implementation when he held the balance of power for several years.
- Stopped the introduction of GST until an election saw the Democrats gain the balance and subsequently vote it in.
- Navigated the partial sale of Telstra and ensured this state received its rightful share – as a passionate Tasmanian he defended our position so strongly that the amount granted was

second only to New South Wales. He was, however, adamant that there should not be a full sale.

Brian was returned to the Senate for an amazing 30 years, where he represented workers in an ongoing fight to gain better wages, conditions and protection to low paid workers.

As President of the SDA for 30 years and a delegate to the National Council, Brian has devoted an incredible amount of time and energy to achieving a better working life for our members.

**We would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank You' for your efforts and achievements.**

*Parliament of Australia – The Senate*

*Senator Brian Harradine*

*4 May 2005*

*Dear Paul*

*Thank you very much for your cards and flowers, thoughts and prayers of encouragement. I am sorry for the delay in response but I have not really been with it (what's changed)!*

*Your expressions of support have been particularly welcome by Marian and our family in getting us through this rough patch in our lives.*

*Everything is now going to schedule. However, the relevant specialist has advised against a return to work unless necessary.*

*The meaning of 'necessary' hopefully extends to the tying up of some loose ends and to farewells – travel permitting.*

*Anyway, Marian must stay within cooee lest I experience a further prolonged seizure.*

*It is at times like these you realise how much of a family the SDA is – thanks Paul and all of the SDA.*

*It is also a time to see how tenuous is our hold on earthly life.*

*With appreciation and again thank you.*

*Brian*