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## **NEW UNION MEMBERSHIP FIGURES SHOW NEED FOR REFORM**

The continuing decline of Australian trade union membership demonstrates the need for meaningful legislative reform, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

Today the Australian Bureau of Statistics released new figures showing that trade union membership has fallen to a record low of 15 per cent of all employees, and only 11 per cent of private sector employees.

“Unions can no longer deny that their business model is broken,” says Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at the Institute of Public Affairs.

“Trade union membership has fallen from 46 per cent of the workforce in 1986 down to 15 per cent in 2014, and only 11 per cent in the private sector.”

“Unions are in trouble because too many of their leaders have been busy pursuing personal benefit rather than representing the interests of their members.”

“Legislation that gives trade unions monopoly rights over enterprise bargaining, right of entry, representation at the Fair Work Commission and even involvement in the superannuation system should be re-examined to open each area up to competitive market forces.”

“The duties imposed on unions and employer organisations and penalties for non-compliance should also be the same as those that apply to companies under the Corporations Act.”

“Forcing union leaders to be more accountable to their members for their behaviour is the only way to stop the shocking practices that have been revealed at the Trade Union Royal Commission.”

“Unions need to shape up, or their members will continue to ship out,” says Mr Hogan.

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