



GAYLE SMITH AWARD

For excellence in health and safety representation by a CPSU member

Gayle Smith worked in various government departments and agencies in a career that spanned 25 years. However, most of her working life was with WorkSafe Victoria and its predecessors, where she made important contributions to occupational health and safety and community safety.

Gayle was committed to improving workplace conditions through her involvement in the trade union movement. For many years she was a workplace delegate and also filled the roles of secretary and treasurer on the local executive of CPSU at the Victorian WorkCover Authority.

She was loyal, hardworking and courageous. She served her fellow members well at a time of great difficulty for the union movement during the Kennett years, and remained steadfast in her commitment to CPSU between 1996 and 1999, when the union did not have Award coverage at WorkCover.

Gayle was widely respected for her willingness to work for a cause, to stand up for what she thought was right and just, even though there were risks involved in taking a stand, and for the time and energy she put into things without expectation of personal reward.

Because of her modesty, not many people were aware that as a single mother Gayle had raised and educated a daughter, but had also studied and had a number of significant academic achievements. Gayle was also a committed environmental activist and took part in local campaigns in Belgrave, where she lived.

Even during the later stages of the illness which took her life, Gayle would travel into the city on Friday nights to come to the bar at Trades Hall, share a drink with her comrades and catch up on the latest health and safety and union news.

Gayle was deeply committed to health and safety and she understood the importance of being a workers' representative, whether as a workplace delegate or a health and safety representative.

To honour Gayle's life and to encourage other CPSU members to further their involvement in health and safety and worker representation, CPSU is proud to sponsor this award in her name.

NOMINATION FORM Gayle Smith Award



I wish to nominate:

..... (member's name)

of (workplace)

Please give details of the excellent representation and contribution to OHS of the nominee:

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Nominator's details

Name:

Workplace:

Telephone:

Email:

Nominee acceptance

I accept the nomination:

..... (Nominee to sign)

Please email this nomination form to **cmarsich@cpsuvic.org** and attach additional material if required.

CPSU Victoria
www.cpsuvic.org
03 9639 1822

Message from Karen Batt CPSU Victoria

I am very pleased to offer this award for excellence in health and safety and for contributions to improving OHS in the workplace.

I was fortunate to know and admire Gayle Smith, who worked tirelessly to improve OHS in Victorian workplaces and to represent her own colleagues' interests as well.

CPSU has created an annual award in Gayle's honour to a CPSU member nominated by their peers who meets the following criteria:

- Have made a significant contribution to OHS in the workplace by contributing to the development of consultation in the workplace and/or effectively representing members with OHS issues.
- Have been a union member for at least two years.
- Be a current elected health & safety representative or deputy health & safety representative.

CPSU will award a plaque and financial assistance for further study in OHS to the member selected by a committee of OHS Officers and Branch Councillors.

Karen Batt
Victorian Branch Secretary