

**Message from  
Karen Batt,  
CPSU State Secretary**



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 2 years
- be a current elected 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**



*The most common  
way people give up  
their power  
is by thinking  
they don't have any.*

*Alice Walker (b. 1944) American writer*



**Gayle Smith  
Award**

*For excellence in health  
and safety representation  
by a CPSU member*

Community & Public Sector Union  
SPSF Group • Victorian Branch  
POSTAL: PO Box 4355, Richmond East, 3121 or  
Rosella Complex, 6 Palmer Parade, Cremorne 3121  
E: [enquiry@cpsuVIC.org](mailto:enquiry@cpsuVIC.org)  
W: [www.cpsuVIC.org](http://www.cpsuVIC.org)

# Nomination Form

# Gayle Smith

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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.....  
.....

Your name.....

Workplace.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

**I accept the nomination (Nominee to sign)**

.....

**Fax to (03) 9662 4591**

attach additional material if required



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 also 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.

Gayle was not only loyal and hardworking, she was 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 and was struggling to survive.

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 on the edge of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

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.