**Divestment motion for branches of unions affiliated to the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)**

Below is a sample motion that members of unions affiliated to the ACTU can use to call on HESTA to divest from the mandatory detention industry.

“That the …. [Branch Committee] endorse the following statement of policy and associated actions. This motion should be communicated to the [Union] [State] Division Executive, the [Union] National Executive and to the Australian Council of Trade Unions. It should form the basis of a motion to go before the [Union] National Council.

Australia’s practice of mandatory detention of refugees is wrong. Mandatory detention causes predictable and serious damage to the health of the people that are interned. It is immoral for corporations to profit from the indefinite and inhuman detention of human beings. We note that the ACTU has a stated opposition to mandatory detention.

Mandatory detention only occurs because of government support and commercial investment. Stopping this regime requires persuading and pressuring those parties to withdraw their support. Unions which sit on the HESTA board, such as the Australian Services Union, have already made commitments to withdraw their support for Transfield, stating: “Social and community workers do not want their retirement savings used to support a system of mandatory detention of asylum seekers and believe it is immoral for corporations to profit from the indefinite and inhuman detention of other human beings.” We support this position.

The ACTU’s role on the HESTA Board gives ACTU members the power to have real influence in the corporate decision-making of this industry super fund. HESTA’s decision on whether or not to purchase shares in corporations that take contracts to imprison asylum seekers can make a significant difference to the capacity and willingness of entities such as Transfield to collaborate in this abusive regime.

While Unions do not exercise complete control over HESTA decisions, they have an important say in the investment decisions of the fund. This statement calls on the ACTU to take action to ask HESTA to divest completely from mandatory detention, beginning with divestment from Transfield. We insist that HESTA clearly, unambiguously and permanently disassociate and divest itself from companies that receive money for the mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

This statement calls on the ACTU to make clear representations to HESTA, calling on its Board of Directors to change the fund’s investment practices in keeping with the values of this statement. This implies an important role for ACTU members of the HESTA Board to push for these changes and importantly, to keep members informed of the progress towards this goal.”