

Media Release

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Workers Force Westpac to Turn Back on India

Workers at Westpac today claimed a victory as the company announced the jobs of 485 workers handling sensitive customer information are to be kept in Australia.

Finance Sector Union national secretary Paul Schroder said the Westpac announcement came after a sustained public backlash from staff and customers after the plans to transfer work from the Concord Transactions and Unsecured Lending Originations (TULO) Centre to India became public earlier this year.

Mr Schroder said the campaign the workers waged to save their jobs had helped shift the public debate around off-shoring of white collar jobs.

“This is a victory for workers, communities and customers across Australia who stood up for workers rights and have saved jobs and sensitive data from being sent off shore,” Mr Schroder said.

Mr Schroder said Westpac should now reject the off-shoring model of cutting wages and conditions in all its operations and reap the reputation benefits of investing in Australian jobs and skills.

“Westpac’s decision to invest in Australian jobs and protect the privacy of their customers will prove good for their business, their workers and their customers.

“The fact that they have listened to their staff and customers and rejected offshoring this work clearly distinguishes Westpac from their competitors. ANZ, NAB and St George are now running a dangerous gauntlet by pursuing what is clearly an unsound business model” .

Mr Schroder said FSU members will continue to build pressure on these banks during the up-coming round of Annual General meetings.

ENDS

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