



AVIATION CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

09 APRIL 2020

We understand aviation workers are still facing uncertainty and hard times right across Australia. We stand proudly together and continue to fight shoulder to shoulder to protect jobs, keep workers safe and ensure workers get financial assistance throughout this difficult time.



CONGRATULATIONS, TOGETHER AS UNITED AVIATION MEMBERS WE HAVE SECURED KEY WINS THIS WEEK. THE FIGHT GOES ON!

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

The historic \$1.3 billion JobKeeper package was passed in Parliament late on Wednesday 8 April after the TWU and then wider union movement forced the Government to reverse its position on providing a wage subsidy package. It is far from perfect and the fight continues to ensure no worker is left behind but it means that the overwhelming majority of stood down workers will now be paid \$1,500 a fortnight.

Click here for more information.

www.twu.com.au/wage-subsidy/info/



KEY IMPROVEMENTS TO JOBKEEPER

We won further concessions from the Government including:

- Ability for businesses to apply for JobKeeper when a division or part of the business is impacted even if the business as a whole is not eligible - this will increase the number of aviation members able to access JobKeeper. We will be working with companies like ISS, SNP and MSS to push for access under this key amendment to ensure the best outcome for airport screeners and security.
- Protection of leave – companies will no longer be able to direct stood down workers to take Long Service Leave. Employers must also ensure a minimum of two weeks annual leave be left in accrual.

VIRGIN WORKERS WIN BACK LEAVE

Following a push from the TWU members, Virgin has been the first company to announce it will recredit any paid annual leave and long service leave taken during the period of 30 March to 4 April 2020 as a result of COVID-19 stand downs.

Congratulations to all members and delegates that have led this fight. We will work to ensure leave is recrated.

DNATA CATERING WIN

After intense negotiations with TWU delegates and officials, Dnata Catering has agreed to bring a number of TWU members back to work and delay stand downs for many members across Australia until later in April. Dnata has also agreed to give workers more freedom over how they use or don't use leave over this period. We are working with members around the country on rosters and arrangements that work for you. Congratulations to all members and delegates who secured this win!

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please help us understand what effect this crisis is having on you and your family, what safety precautions are being taken at your workplace and what you need from your union. Please take our survey and share it with your co-workers: bit.ly/TWUcovidsurvey

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER. JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

QANTAS' SHAMEFUL RESPONSE

Qantas has led the charge when it comes to letting workers down in every aspect; safety, stand downs, entitlements, bullying and intimidation. When a huge company like this treats workers so appallingly, it impacts thousands of workers and encourages other companies to act just as shamefully. We have been fighting hard to expose how Qantas treats its workers and to force the company to do the right thing.

QANTAS INVESTIGATION IN NSW

Following the suspension of an aircraft cleaner, who is also a trained HSR and TWU delegate, SafeWork NSW has served a notice of formal investigation on Qantas and CEO Alan Joyce.

Qantas faces the first prosecution of its kind in Australia, with the airline now facing multiple breaches, each carrying a fine of \$500,000, for "discriminatory conduct and prohibited behaviour" against the worker.

The Sydney worker was stood down on February 2 for raising legitimate concerns about unsafe cleaning procedures which have been backed up by an additional SafeWork investigation, but Qantas has refused to reinstate the worker. Qantas must be held to account for attacking HSRs and delegates when they are protecting the safety of workers.

QANTAS FAILED TO PROTECT WORKERS

The safety concerns raised by workers, the TWU and SafeWork have been legitimised by a terrible outbreak amongst Qantas baggage handlers, cabin crew and pilots. Last week Qantas admitted that 50 workers had contracted the virus and this number is growing with

cases reported in Adelaide, Sydney and from a flight arriving from Chile.

A TWU safety investigation in Adelaide and now extended to other airports has exposed growing evidence that worker infections and spread occurred because of lax systems. For months Qantas has said the risks for workers are "negligible", a claim that is now in tatters.

We are fighting hard to force Qantas to immediately protect workers and ensure those unable to work are paid.

If you are a Qantas worker, please take our safety survey to help us understand and expose Qantas' failings on safety: <https://bit.ly/covidQantas>

QANTAS IN THE FEDERAL COURT

This week the TWU, along with the AWU, ETU and the AMWU have taken Qantas to Federal Court over Qantas's refusal to pay stood down workers sick leave. Any worker who was on long term sick leave ahead of the stand downs, or who gets sick or injured during this time should be able to access their sick leave. The matter is being heard by the Federal Court on 21 April. Congratulations to those members who have stood up to provide evidence and share their stories to assist in the case. We will keep you updated on the progress of the case.

KEY DATES:

- January 31:** TWU calls on Scott Morrison to suspend all flights from China, as virus outbreak spreads. The following day Scott Morrison bans passengers arriving from China into Australia. Qantas also announces it will suspend flights to and from China.
- February 3:** TWU's NSW branch puts in a request for service to SafeWork NSW after Qantas stands down an aircraft cleaner, who is a trained HSR and TWU delegate.
- March 5:** Safe Work NSW concludes a damning report following the standing down of the cleaner and issues Improvement Notices.
- March 11:** The World Health Organisation declares a global pandemic.
- March 15:** The TWU writes to the Federal Government demanding that it subsidises the wages of aviation workers after the Government announces restrictions on travel. TWU members pile on the pressure through petitions and action for wage subsidies and protection of entitlements.
- March 27:** SafeWork NSW serves notice on Alan Joyce and Qantas informing the airline it will formally investigate them over the standing down of an aircraft cleaner in Sydney.
- March 30:** Government announces a wage subsidy for workers stood down called JobKeeper Payment Virgin announces it will recredit leave. A great win for TWU members who took action!
- April 9:** Virgin announces it will recredit leave.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.
JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.**

www.twu.com.au/join

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