



AVIATION CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

26 APRIL 2020

It's an uncertain and difficult time for thousands of aviation workers across Australia right now. But we're stronger together, and we'll keep fighting to ensure workers are kept safe and able to support their families through this crisis – however long that takes.



THE FUTURE OF VIRGIN

Hundreds of members around the country united this week with pictures, videos and heartfelt words to put pressure on the government to save Virgin. Congratulations to these members for bravely speaking out. The airline has now entered into voluntary administration, but JobKeeper payments are still continuing at this time.

Scott Poole, Virgin Ground Crew

"I've been in this terminal for 25 and a half years. These people are not only my mates, they're my brothers and sisters."

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese

"All of these workers who we'll hear from today are proud of their job. The least they can expect is a government that will defend it."

Sherryl, cabin crew member

"Virgin Australia has been my second family for over twelve years. ScoMo, please help us keep our jobs."

Vaughan Strawbridge, Deloitte Administrator

"It's really important that we're working with the TWU to help guide us through this process on your behalf. The TWU is a hugely important stakeholder."



Some of the incredible Virgin workers who shared their stories this week. The ground crew pictured at the top of this page have a combined 92 years with the company.

NOMINATE TWU NATIONAL SECRETARY MICHAEL KAINE AS YOUR PROXY | bit.ly/SaveVirgin

Michael and the TWU have a lot of experience with these processes. Virgin CEO Paul Scurrah and Deloitte Administrator Vaughan Strawbridge joined the TWU briefing this week and emphasised the importance of workers having a strong voice during this process amongst other big voting blocks that won't have workers' interests at heart. Click here for a recording of the TWU briefing webinar, and information on how to nominate Michael Kaine as your proxy. bit.ly/SaveVirgin

CAN YOU ACCESS JOBKEEPER?

Things are changing fast, and many workers are wondering what kind of government assistance they're entitled to. We've compiled a fact sheet so you know what your rights are. Access it here: <https://bit.ly/TWUJobKeeperFactSheet>

MAM TO PAY JOBKEEPER

MAM was initially one of many companies refusing to apply for JobKeeper, but after significant member pressure, MAM has agreed to apply for the program. MAM workers have less secure jobs than those directly hired by airlines and are always at higher risk because of their precarious employment, but this proves that when workers stand together, we win.

TELL US HOW COVID-19 IS AFFECTING YOU

Take our survey on stand downs, safety, and what you need from us: bit.ly/TWUcovidsurvey

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Last week the TWU convened a crisis aviation roundtable with over a dozen other unions, company executives and politicians to discuss a national plan for aviation. Aviation is suffering an over 90% decline due to Government restrictions in response to coronavirus, it is the Government that must now put in place the necessary support for the industry's survival. The roundtable also discussed the need for public ownership in airlines in return for support, and the necessity of having a two-airline system. Though the roundtable was a success, we are disappointed that Qantas and the Federal Government rejected our request to attend.

QANTAS SURVEY RESULTS

We surveyed Qantas members about safety at work which returned damning results. Over 80% of staff didn't think Qantas had put appropriate safety measures in place, and almost half didn't think they could raise any concerns they did have.

"It's a joke. You raise issues and nothing happens."

"We are only numbers on paper."

If you're a Qantas worker (including Jetstar and QGS staff), complete the survey so we can find out more and expose Qantas' negligence of worker safety:

<https://bit.ly/covidQantas>

QANTAS IN COURT

In our last update we talked about our Federal Court case over Qantas's refusal to pay stood-down Qantas Group workers sick leave. This matter is being heard on 28 April, and we'll keep you updated on its progress.

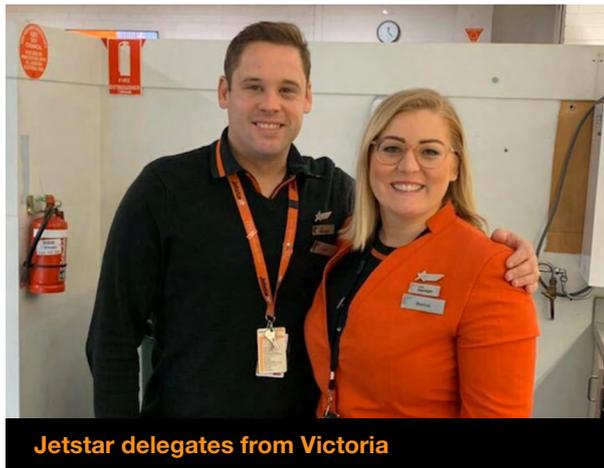
We are also taking a dispute against Qantas to the Fair Work Commission for trying to pit part-time and full-time workers against each other at a time when workers are fearful about being able to support their families. Qantas has stood down some workers in a manner contrary to what the company agreed to in March, regarding a fairer process for stand-downs. We will be trying to ensure that Qantas sticks to the agreement it made last month and we would urge the company to abide by the calls that leaders right across the country made about working together during this time of crisis.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

This is an uncertain time for aviation, but your TWU is continuing to hold conversations with aviation companies to maximise hours and rosters for workers to be able to feed their families, as well as ensuring workplace safety. Now more than ever is the time to stand together, and keep in contact with your officials and delegates. We recognise that this is an incredibly hard time for many of our members. If you're struggling there is always support available:

LIFELINE 13 11 14

BEYONDBLUE 1800 512 348



Jetstar delegates from Victoria

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.

JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

www.twu.com.au/join

TWU Michael Kaine **P:** 02 8114 6500 **E:** twu@twu.com.au **W:** www.twu.com.au

Authorised by Michael Kaine, National Secretary, Transport Workers' Union. Level 2, 388-390 Sussex Street, Sydney 2000 p (02) 8114 6500 e twu@twu.com.au

