

COVID-19 CRISIS: AIRPORT WORKERS FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

Over six months on from the first aviation restrictions, over 1200 aviation workers share their stories of how the pandemic is still affecting them. The Federal Government must come forward with a national plan for the industry.

UNCERTAINTY FOR THE FUTURE

93% of workers have been stood down 

“ I have had to come to terms with the fact that there is absolutely **no job security** in aviation because of the way the government has chosen to **disregard this industry** and its workers. ”

“ Life is so hard now. Our careers were taken from us because of this pandemic. **The government has to help us.** ”

“ The mental toll is huge. After 20 years of loyal service I feel **completely in limbo** and don't know whether I will ever get my job back on a fulltime basis. ”

“ It's like **walking on broken glass** every day every week not knowing when you're going to get cut. ”

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES



64% are on JobKeeper

67% of those who can't get JobKeeper can't get JobSeeker

59% are experiencing financial hardship

72% have had to dip into savings

“ I haven't been able to get new glasses for reading and driving as **I have no income.** ”

“ I am currently receiving the full JobKeeper amount. Currently, after my rent is paid, **I have \$8 left in my bank account.** ”

“ Our mortgage has been **put on hold**, which will simply add to the financial burden later. ”

“ **I am pregnant.** If I am made redundant I am unable to get another job, I will not be paid maternity pay after 10 years of service. ”

“ I don't think we can last much longer until we end up living in the car or **on the streets.** ”

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES



are experiencing depression and anxiety



are having difficulty sleeping



are experiencing a strain on relationships

“ I’m not sure what to do anymore... **my mental health is suffering badly.** My kids are starting to see the stress and pressure. They can’t do sports anymore due to cost. ”

“ I have been **in tears** and constantly checking email and web roster. Uncertainty has been very destructive. ”

“ My anxiety levels are so high I **ended up in hospital** due to a massive panic attack. ”

“ I’m so stressed I’m **losing my hair.** ”

Several people mentioned they’d had **suicidal thoughts.**

REDUNDANCIES AND FINDING OTHER EMPLOYMENT



are seeking other work



are working a second job

“ It’s so hard to find an alternative job. I have **applied for more than 50 jobs** and I am lucky to get a rejection notice. ”

“ I’m a 60 year old woman. People think that I’m **past the used-by date.** ”

“ **I want to keep my career!** 14 years in aviation and can’t imagine doing anything else. ”

“ It’s very difficult to find alternate jobs. Some places **refuse to hire aviation workers** as they are concerned and scared that we are more vulnerable and exposed to the virus more. ”

“ I am **forced to look at redundancy** to get my finances back into the black. ”

“ Redundancy is the only way for me because **I will never get another job at my age** plus I will have to move in with my daughter and family. ”

“ **I don’t want to leave my beloved industry I have been in for 30 years** but I am going to be left no choice. It’s heartbreaking. ”

IMPACT ON RETIREMENT



have accessed their super or are planning to

“ Thanks to a **government that couldn’t care less** my wife has withdrawn all of her super, and I withdrew the full \$20,000. ”

“ Financially this pandemic **has set me back years.** I’ve had to go without many things to get by. ”

“ I have taken out **max super** and I’m near retirement. ”

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

