



To: Prime Minister Scott Morrison MP

11 March, 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to register our utter dismay at today's announcement on support for the aviation industry.

Cheap flights and grants to companies will not save businesses or jobs and will only increase distrust around continuing public financial support that comes without strict conditions attached.

Jobkeeper has been a vital lifeline in keeping thousands of aviation workers connected to their jobs. It has allowed companies to rotate a large cohort of workers, keeping them linked to their jobs. It has allowed workers to pay their bills and support their families.

The outlook for aviation is optimistic but the industry is by no means out of the woods. Workers are being stood up in greater numbers than before but domestic travel remains a fraction of its former self while international travel is still in the doldrums.

We question the thinking behind ripping away wage supports now. The Australian taxpayer has effectively paid the wages of thousands of aviation workers for almost a year. Stopping that support at the final hurdle makes no sense and amounts to a waste of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent to date.

We have written to you several times calling for Aviation Keeper, a wage subsidy for all aviation workers which would come with strict conditions capping executive salaries, banning bonuses and dividends and ensuring workers and their skills are retained, not outsourced.

We note that the Federal Government has met and stayed in contact with the likes of Qantas CEO Alan Joyce, who today stated that the measures were "the result of month of discussion between the Qantas Group and government". Contact with aviation workers and their representatives, has been sparse. We have tried to engage Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Michael McCormack but he has proved utterly deaf to the experience of aviation workers and their ideas on the way forward.

We ask you to meet aviation workers at this critical point and to hear why abandoning wage subsidies now will be a disaster for them and their futures.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine

VIPA President John Lyons

ALAEA Federal Secretary Steve Purvinas

ETU National Secretary Allen Hicks

AWU National Secretary Daniel Walton

ASU Assistant National Secretary Emeline Gaske

FAAA Secretary Teri O'Toole

AMWU Federal Secretary Steve Murphy

AFAP Executive Director Simon Lutton