



# AVIATION NEWSLETTER

23 May 2020



**The last fortnight has seen aviation workers come together across the industry and push forward our unified fight for a national plan for aviation. Congratulations to all workers for mounting pressure on politicians and ensuring your voices are heard.**

## A NATIONAL PLAN FOR AVIATION

### AVIATION MASS MEETING #1

Aviation workers joined our biggest ever national meeting, which saw workers come together from every sector across the industry and a broad cross-section of companies. At this meeting, workers endorsed a claim for a national plan for aviation that we've now taken to the Federal Government:

#### OUR CLAIM:

Aviation workers are coming together across Australia to call on the Government to immediately act in developing a national plan which ensures the following commitment for the long-term stability and protection of the industry:

- **A two airline model**
- **Government equity in airlines to ensure long term stability**
- **Accessible and affordable services for regional communities**
- **Protection and promotion of regional jobs**
- **Job Keeper for all aviation workers**
- **Same pay for the same job for all aviation workers**
- **Safe supply chains**
- **Capped CEO salaries**
- **Regulation of airports**

Sign the petition and share it widely among members and non-members: [bit.ly/AviationPlanAus](https://bit.ly/AviationPlanAus)

## ALP FORUM

Following our call on the government, the Australian Labor Party this week joined a forum with aviation delegates from each sector who shared worker experiences of COVID-19, from JobKeeper denial at SNP and Dnata to a shocking disregard for safety at Qantas, the effect of the Virgin administration on workers and payment disputes at Jetstar. These heartfelt accounts cemented ALP commitment to fight for aviation workers:

- All politicians at the forum endorsed the TWU call for the Federal Government to implement a national plan for aviation.
- The Shadow Minister for Transport Hon Catherine King MP offered to write to Qantas over safety at Qantas and Jetstar.
- Senators committed to fight for Dnata and other aviation workers to receive JobKeeper payments at the next sitting week.
- Politicians offered support to Virgin workers throughout the administration process

Each of the ten politicians who spoke congratulated workers for their strong fight, particularly the calls and emails to parliament and for sharing your stories. Your efforts are having a huge impact.



## AVIATION MASS MEETING #2: WEDNESDAY 27 MAY, 2PM

Don't miss the next meeting, where we'll be progressing our fight for a national plan for aviation. Registration is essential. Sign up now: [bit.ly/AviationMeeting2](https://bit.ly/AviationMeeting2)

# THE FIGHT FOR JOBKEEPER



Dnata and other aviation workers have made a tremendous effort to fight for your right to JobKeeper. In just a few days, this pressure almost saw the callous decision to deny Dnata workers JobKeeper overturned in Parliament, with only One Nation left to sway. With the motion delayed until the next sitting week, we now have two more weeks to keep the up and amplify the pressure.

By standing together and bravely sharing your stories, Dnata workers have made this issue a national news story. Your thousands of calls and emails to parliamentary offices, airport actions in Sydney and Perth and politician forums in Victoria and Queensland have put your fight front and centre of the Australian political debate.

Keep up the calls to politicians, and post your stories on social media tagging One Nation's Pauline Hanson and Malcolm Roberts and using the hashtags **#DnataWorkers #NoWorkerLeftBehind**

Take our survey to help us pile more pressure on the government and bring the public along with us in our fight:

**[bit.ly/Dnata Survey](https://bit.ly/DnataSurvey)**

## VIRGIN ADMINISTRATION PROCESS KICKS OFF

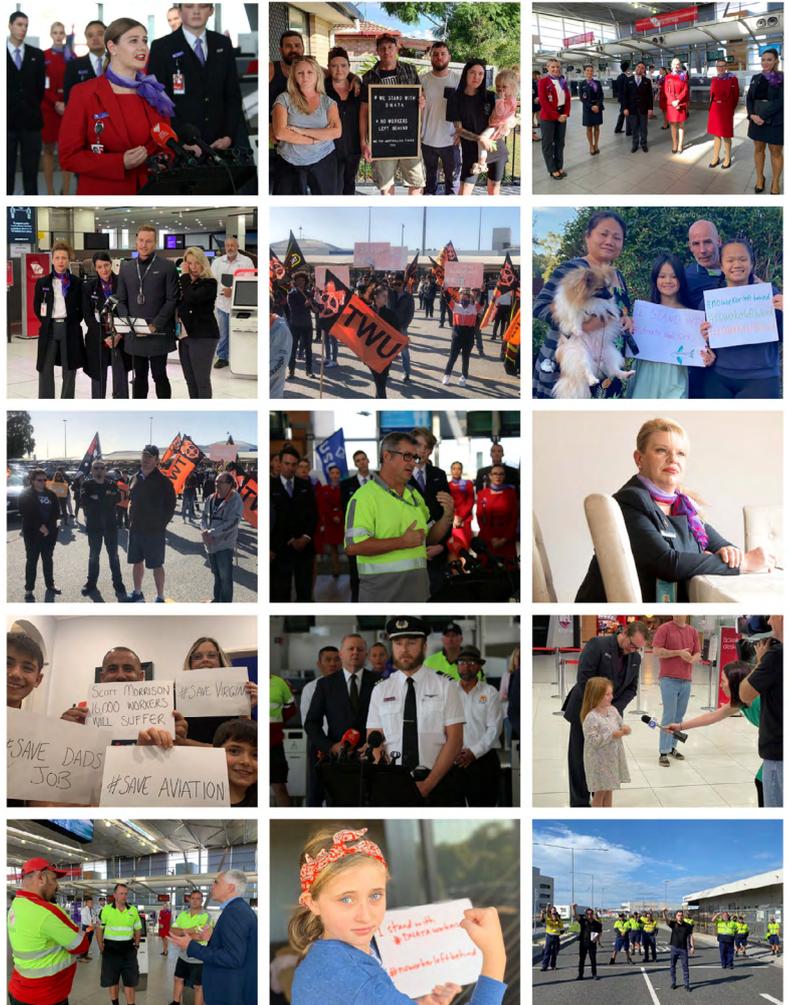
This week the first Committee of Inspection meeting took place. TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine was well-armed with members' interests following a briefing with Virgin delegates earlier in the week.

Over the course of this process it is essential that Michael is equipped with workers' preferred outcomes. Have your say by ranking these outcomes in order of importance: **[bit.ly/VirginPreferences](https://bit.ly/VirginPreferences)**

Your preferences and further consultation with delegates will shape our collective assessment of the bids ahead of the vote. We encourage you to keep in contact with your delegates to ensure your voice is heard throughout this process. Bidders will be shortlisted to two by early June, and those two will then submit binding bids for the Committee of Inspection to assess.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to push hard to ensure the approach focuses on secure jobs, protected pay and conditions and a full capacity airline. We need to keep up pressure on the Federal Government to take a stake in Virgin just like the German government did with Lufthansa this week. Keep up the calls to politicians to ensure your fight is at the forefront of their minds.

You should have received from Virgin an update on your continuing JobKeeper payments and entitlements. Please speak to your delegate or official if you have any concerns.



## QANTAS AND JETSTAR HSRs MEET

Health & safety representatives from across the Qantas Group met this week to discuss concerns about the airline's response to COVID-19. Qantas has downplayed the risks, threatened staff raising concerns, suspended a Sydney HSR and allowed a cluster of cases to grow at Adelaide airport. HSRs across the country have brought more safety breaches to light, including:

- refusing to ensure common areas such as lunchrooms were adequately cleaned
- refusing to change rosters so that social distancing was possible among workers
- not supplying vital PPE such as masks
- refusing to take on board worker concerns or follow up complaints
- lack of training on how to stay safe at work

The HSRs agreed that as Qantas tries to move quickly to get planes back in the air, more needs to be done to protect workers and passengers, starting with a risk assessment to set the basis for reducing infection and spread.

Another meeting of HSRs will take place again in June. Make sure you talk to your HSR if you have any concerns, or if you want to know more about your rights, including ceasing unsafe work.

## QANTAS REFUSING SICK LEAVE

We are appealing a court decision allowing Qantas to appallingly keep stood-down workers from accessing their accrued sick leave, including a man battling cancer and another awaiting a triple bypass, both with over 30 years of service at Qantas.

**Seriously ill workers with over 30 years at Qantas deserve their sick leave.**

**We won't stop fighting for justice.**



**Aviation workers are strong and united. Our fight is front and centre of politician's minds and in the public eye. Let's keep up the pressure.**

**Sign and share our petition for a national plan for aviation:**

[bit.ly/AviationPlanAus](https://bit.ly/AviationPlanAus)

**Join our next aviation mass meeting, Wednesday 27 May at 2pm. Register now: [bit.ly/AviationMeeting2](https://bit.ly/AviationMeeting2)**

**As always, talk to us about any concerns you may have. We're in this together.**

## CASE IN POINT: QANTAS "FLY-WELL" PLAN EXPOSES VIRUS DENIAL

This week Qantas announced its "fly well" plan, which looks more like a PR campaign than prioritising health and safety:

- No consultation with workers
- Passengers decide whether or not to use masks and sanitising wipes
- Total disregard for social distancing
- No information on how frequent 'enhanced cleaning' will take place
- Focusing on passengers 'peace of mind' rather than protecting against a deadly virus

**We're writing to the Federal Government asking for it to implement, as part of a national plan on aviation, strict rules for all airlines on keeping workers and passengers safe.**

## JETSTAR DELAYS: PAYMENTS AND EA APPROVAL

The TWU is investigating a number of issues with Jetstar payments, including the outrageously slow payments of JobKeeper. We understand that every day the payment is delayed is significant for you and your families during this incredibly tough time. We will be fighting every day until we see these processes sorted.

**Let us know how you've been affected: [bit.ly/JetstarPaymentPoll](https://bit.ly/JetstarPaymentPoll)**

The Fair Work Commission is now reviewing your EA, but has raised concerns that Jetstar must now address. For the FWC to approve an agreement they must apply the Better off Overall Test, by comparing each clause to the Award. Jetstar must provide more information on several clauses to prove that workers would be better off under the agreement than the Award. We're pushing this process to ensure Jetstar does not unnecessarily delay, and that it complies with all of the FWC requirements.

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