



# AVIATION NEWSLETTER

9 May 2020

**Aviation workers continue to bear the brunt of the industry's struggle through the pandemic and government restrictions and changes. But TWU members are playing an active role in pressuring the government to protect workers and ensure no worker is left behind.**

## AIRPORT WORKERS FIGHT BACK

Angry aviation workers took to Perth airport on Friday 8 May to demand that no worker is left behind. See below for more.



## NEW JOBKEEPER RESTRICTIONS

In an appalling move, the Federal Government quietly excluded companies with foreign ownership from receiving JobKeeper, despite the wage subsidy being put in place to support hardworking, taxpaying people in Australia.

The loophole is not only anti-worker, but is also unfairly skewed to allow the government to pick and choose which companies will receive financial assistance. Swissport, which is owned by Chinese controlled HNA, is receiving JobKeeper payments, while Dnata, which is owned by the Government of Dubai, is not.

Let's not forget that the Federal Government allowed the selling off of a previously nationally-owned sector to foreign entities including governments, and is now penalising aviation workers at a time when they need support the most.

## DNATA WORKERS SPRING INTO ACTION

Over 5,000 Dnata workers now denied JobKeeper are fighting back hard, putting in thousands of calls to Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's office and local MPs. We need all workers to keep up this great work to ensure aviation workers are at the forefront of politicians' minds during Parliament sitting week.

Worker stories, voices and faces need to drive this campaign to remind the government of the real lives and families impacted by their crass decision. Keep posting pictures and short videos on social media using the hashtags **#danataworkers** **#noworkerleftbehind**

Visit [bit.ly/DnataJobKeeper](https://bit.ly/DnataJobKeeper) for MP contact details, tips for social media posts and TWU media clips.

We're working with Dnata on a fair process for stand-downs and have won the following commitments:

- Employees given the option to opt in for ongoing work
- Prioritise workers who are not able to get JobSeeker
- Consultation with TWU and ASU on a fair process
- Company considering annual leave to be paid for workers stood down



## MORE AVIATION WORKERS MAY MISS OUT

Dnata workers were not the only ones shut out of JobKeeper, with SNP security guards at the airport also told they won't get the payment. These workers pay their taxes and work alongside other workers who are receiving JobKeeper payment. The Federal Government needs to explain to these workers why it has decided to cut them off.

We are awaiting further information on the eligibility of other aviation companies like Gate Gourmet, Menzies and Rex Airlines who may also be impacted.

## VIRGIN UPDATE



Congratulations to all workers that through proxies and follow up creditors votes have ensured that we have a strong, collective, independent voice and will be on the Committee of Inspection to fight for the best outcome for workers at Virgin. If you haven't yet voted to approve the Committee of Inspection this week, we strongly recommend you do, and you vote **YES**. (Please note, even if you nominated a proxy, you still need to vote for this)

We'll continue to consult with delegates and update you all on the administration process. TWU is also meeting with Virgin on 26 May to discuss plans for international flights to resume and WHS procedures to keep workers safe.

## VIRGIN WORKERS' WISH LIST

A TWU survey has so far shown that workers overwhelmingly support the following outcomes:

95%



**Federal Government to take an equity stake in Virgin**

100%



**Federal Government needs a national aviation plan**

100%



**any future investor/owner must commit to the best workers' rights and quality of jobs**

88%



**would prefer Australian investors**

91%



**believe Virgin should remain a full competitor to Qantas**

If you haven't yet taken the survey, you can do so at: [bit.ly/SaveVirginSurvey](https://bit.ly/SaveVirginSurvey)

## AVIATION MASS MEETING: TUESDAY 12 MAY - 2PM

Every aviation worker is facing a challenging time right now and the Federal Government must do more.

We are in awe of the determination and solidarity we've seen right across the industry, from every company and sector.

It's time to come together like never before and demand that Scott Morrison puts in place a national plan for aviation that protects workers' jobs, safety and pay and conditions now and into the future.

Register for the webinar asap and you'll be sent a link to join the webinar shortly before it begins at 2pm Tuesday. [bit.ly/AviationMeetingReg](https://bit.ly/AviationMeetingReg)

## JOBKEEPER PAYMENTS

We'll keep you updated as we find out more about JobKeeper changes and eligibility. In the meantime, you may find answers in our JobKeeper fact sheet:

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

Turn over for spotlight on Qantas failings >>>

# QANTAS' SHOCKING DISREGARD FOR SAFETY AND WORKERS' RIGHTS

## TWU INVESTIGATION REVEALS HUGE FAILINGS ON SAFETY

The SA branch of the TWU launched an independent investigation to understand the causes of a covid-19 outbreak, which led to 34 staff infected in Adelaide and 750 needing to self-isolate. Qantas safety records and documentation revealed frighteningly lax health and safety practices, including lack of PPE for workers, a business-as-usual approach to cleaning and lack of training or consultation. Workers who had been exposed to the first infected worker over several days involving close contact were directed to continue turning up for work.

## SURVEY RESULTS – WHAT YOU TOLD US

A crucial part of our investigation of Qantas was the survey filled out by over 850 workers. Thank you for sharing your stories and concerns, which support our investigation's findings and add even more damning evidence. Here is some of what you told us.

**81%** said Qantas did not put appropriate safety measures in place.

**93%** are concerned about their own and others' safety at work.

**47%**

don't feel as though they can raise concerns about health and safety.

**80%**

believe they've not been given enough training for the new working environment as a result of covid-19.

“ Some leading hands laugh and make fun of people who raise concerns with them. ”

“ It became obvious that Qantas' medical advice came from Qantas. I had two doctors listen in to several of the Qantas information dial in sessions and they were disgusted with the advice. The advice went against what numerous health organisations were suggesting. ”

“ If it wasn't for the rain, ramp equipment and machinery wouldn't get washed or cleaned at all. ”

“ What Qantas told the media they were doing was completely opposite to what was happening on board. I felt so concerned about my safety in relation to this virus I called in sick until I got stood down. ”

For the full investigation and survey results, visit: [bit.ly/QantasSafetyBreaches](https://bit.ly/QantasSafetyBreaches)

Sign up to the fight to hold Qantas to account for safety: [bit.ly/QantasSafetyFight](https://bit.ly/QantasSafetyFight)

## QANTAS' ATTEMPT TO REFUSE SICK LEAVE

Our Federal Court case over Qantas's refusal to pay stood-down workers sick leave has commenced, with TWU members bravely providing heartfelt testimony. The judgement is due to be handed down on Monday 18 May. We'll update you as soon as we hear.

## PAY DISPUTE OVER PENALTY RATES

We've received reports that some Qantas Group workers, especially at Jetstar, haven't been receiving pay, with some owed as many as 5 weeks' pay. We are also hearing that Qantas is wrongfully delaying payments like penalty and overtime

rates to absorb them into minimum JobKeeper payments. If you're facing any pay issues, contact your delegate, official or branch as soon as possible.

## STOOD-DOWN WORKER CASE CONTINUES

The case against Qantas for suspending a trained HSR over raising legitimate health and safety risks continues, with the hearing to be fast tracked to be assessed prior to Christmas 2020. Qantas have the option to plead guilty, which would receive a reduction in fines of 25%. Otherwise the case will go to trial with all evidence to be assessed, meaning more breaches could be exposed by SafeWork NSW, with full penalties being applicable if found guilty.

**TWU** Michael Kaine **P:** 02 8114 6500 **E:** [twu@twu.com.au](mailto:twu@twu.com.au) **W:** [www.twu.com.au](http://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](mailto:twu@twu.com.au)

