



AVIATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

CHEAP FLIGHT TICKETS OVER REAL SUPPORT FOR AVIATION WORKERS

We updated you recently on the appalling decision by the Federal Government to cut off JobKeeper at the end of March. Scott Morrison said there would be some support for international aviation workers at Qantas and Virgin but his grand plan to save aviation is to offer cheap flights – and almost exclusively to Liberal or marginal seats

Qantas - not the Federal Government - revealed some details of a \$500 wage support a week for the next seven months for international workers but at this stage there is still little information on who exactly is eligible.

This is not good enough.

While it's positive that this support is being extended for some aviation workers, it won't cover the many domestic aviation workers still stood down. It won't cover workers in other aviation companies including crew on other airlines and workers at ground operators. The payment to Qantas comes with no conditions on the company

so what's to stop them taking the public money and trashing more jobs?

Though it's come to light that Scott Morrison and Alan Joyce have been in talks for months over this plan, the Prime Minister rejected a request from the TWU and 7 other unions to meet after the announcement. It's clear that again, the Federal Government is prioritising its mates over workers.

We'll share more details about the announcement once they become available, and in the meantime, keep [emailing the PM](#) to demand that ALL aviation workers are provided extended support.

COVID-19 VACCINES

You've been on the frontline during this global pandemic, and for many of you now, covid-19 vaccinations will be available as recognition of the essential work you've done and continue to do. You can check your eligibility [at this website](#).

LABOR BRINGING AVIATION MOTION TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Your fight for aviation last year made waves around Australia, and next week the ALP will put forward a motion at their national conference committing to supporting "same job, same pay" and maximising secure jobs in aviation. This is a huge achievement that would not have been possible without so many of you sharing your stories. We'll keep you updated on how that progresses.

AVIATION SENATE INQUIRY – CANBERRA HEARING



Aviation workers gave evidence before the Senate Inquiry into Aviation in Canberra in February. We'd like to congratulate all those who spoke about their experiences, and continue to be advocates for all aviation workers.

Representatives from Qantas, Swissport and Rex also fronted the inquiry. It will come as no surprise that Alan Joyce sent others in his place to speak, and that both they and Swissport representatives continually distorted facts about their companies' actions over the course of the pandemic.

Watch part one [here](#) and part two [here](#).

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER. JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

ABOVE THE WING



TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine signing MOU with VIPA President John Lyons

JOINING FORCES WITH VIPA

Last November we updated you on talks between the TWU & the Virgin Independent Pilots Association (VIPA) merging. We have now signed a memorandum of understanding with a view to amalgamating in the coming months.

This is an exciting development which will strengthen the voice of pilots in our union and across the aviation industry.

VIPA president, John Lyons, has been in the aviation industry for over 50 years, having flown since 1967. Prior to retiring, John was a captain with Virgin Australia for thirteen years and before that, was engaged in wide body long haul operations based in Europe for seventeen years, operating to destinations throughout Europe, Middle East, USA and the Caribbean.

For much of his career he has actively represented pilots industrially. While working in the UK in the 1980s, he stood strong against Australian government requests to replace striking Australian pilots. In 2007, he was one of the founding members of VIPA, and we welcome the expertise he'll bring to this new partnership.

QANTAS SEXUAL HARASSMENT FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

In November 2019 Qantas revealed details showing high levels of sexual harassment (one in four female cabin crew) and low levels of reporting (3% overall) among cabin crew and pilots.

Qantas said it would take steps to address this problem including training, making reporting easier and peer support.

We want to know what Qantas has done since then. If you're a Qantas cabin crew or pilot member, take our follow-up survey on your experiences at work:

bit.ly/QantasSurvey

VIRGIN CABIN CREW UPDATES

Your TWU Bargaining Committee has been working tirelessly to achieve the best possible outcome for crew through the Conciliation process.

Be on the lookout for updates next week, and reach out to your delegates with any questions.

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BELLOW THE WING

LAST DAYS FOR QANTAS MEMBERS

Over the last few weeks, Qantas ground staff around the country have worked their final days. This cruel decision has led to decades of skills and training lost. Some of you have got jobs in other aviation operators so we look forward to continue building power right across the airport with you. We wish all of you the absolute best for the future, and hope our paths may cross again.

We continue to fight the Qantas decision in the Federal Court, with the first hearing to be held on the 12 April. We'll keep you updated as we hear more.



UPCOMING BARGAINING

Coming up soon will be bargaining for Dnata Catering and Ground, Rex, Qantas Freight and Menzies. This is a crucial opportunity for us to come together as we slowly move out of the covid-19 crisis, and we'll provide updates as they occur with that process.

BUILDING POWER IN 2021

We know many companies have used the global pandemic as an excuse to slash rates, conditions and job security in an already fragmented industry. We must take this opportunity to rally together and increase our power across the aviation industry. Whether you're employed by Dnata, Menzies, Oceania or Swissport, if you're doing the same work you deserve the same rights and conditions.

This year we will focus on rebuilding our industry and securing our future. That means strengthening our position to fight for the same pay for the same job, no matter your uniform or the business name on your pay slip. We must protect our conditions, improve rights on disputes and consultation, and show aviation companies that we are united in the fight for a safe and secure industry for all workers.

As the industry begins to recover, more people will be returning to work, as well as beginning in different roles or in different companies. It's hugely important to have conversations with everyone we can, to bring them into the TWU aviation family and ensure as many people as possible are joining our fight.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.
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