



April 2, 2020

Hon Christian Porter MP
Minister for Industrial Relations
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: Christian.Porter.MP@aph.gov.au

Re: Urgent Coronavirus Demands of Food Delivery Workers

Dear Minister,

We write to you in order to request that the Australian Federal Government urgently acts to support and protect food delivery workers and the broader Australian public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food delivery workers are providing a vital service during the virus pandemic. Tens of thousands of workers are delivering meals to people isolated in their homes from restaurants that would otherwise be forced to close. This work is obviously not without risks.

Despite the importance of this contribution, food delivery workers are being provided little-to-no support.

Workers still do not have access to workers' compensation or sick leave if they contract the virus or need to self-isolate. Food delivery workers are also not being provided basic safety equipment like masks and sanitisers or the ability to minimise the risk of contracting or spreading the virus during deliveries. Food delivery workers continue to earn below minimum wage, and many are living below the poverty line. Recently announced Government support provisions are failing many food delivery workers, most of whom are on temporary student and working-holiday visas and are as a result, unable to access financial and medical safety nets.

These issues are of utmost importance to the health of delivery riders and drivers and the broader Australian public. Delivery workers must be able to take time off if they are unwell and not lose their income entirely. They must be able to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading the virus through the use of personal protective equipment.

The TWU and the Delivery Riders Alliance has in recent days consulted delivery workers across the industry and puts to you the following demands (see attached) for your urgent consideration. We hope that you respect the lives and contributions of delivery workers in this time by urgently acting on these demands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kaine'.

Michael Kaine
National Secretary | Transport Workers Union