



# AVIATION NEWSLETTER

4th December 2020

**Despite borders opening around the country and Alan Joyce announcing Qantas would soon be making a profit again, the company this week announced it would go ahead with outsourcing 2500 ground-handling jobs. This is devastating news for these families, and we'll be here for any support you need over the next days and weeks. We are also close to finalising an EA for Virgin – we'll continue to hold companies and the Federal Government to account to get aviation workers through this pandemic.**

## 100 YEARS OF AVIATION

Despite such appalling responses from both Qantas and the Federal Government, it's been incredible to see aviation workers unite across the industry – and it's going to be increasingly important that we keep up this fight.

For Qantas' 100th anniversary we headed to Sydney Opera House to send a message to the Federal Government that they need to come forward with a national aviation plan. Congrats to Marion, Adrian and Leonie for telling their stories, and everyone else who came along.



Message for Qantas



Message the Federal Government

## QANTAS

### QANTAS REJECTS WORKERS' BID FOR THEIR OWN JOBS

It's been a devastating week for Qantas workers, with the company confirming the heartbreaking news that it will go ahead with the outsourcing of 2500 workers. This is despite a compelling, competitive bid for the work, prepared with the help of accounting firm EY.

We know many of you must be incredibly disheartened and worried about your families, especially in the lead up to Christmas. But we also know how much you love your jobs, and this fight is not over yet. Stayed tuned for next steps as we continue to pursue every avenue we possibly can.

## QANTAS MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

[READ LEONIE AND KYM'S ARTICLE](#)

[READ JEREMY'S ARTICLE](#)

[READ CHRIS' ARTICLE](#)



Kym, Qantas Baggage Handler



Leonie, Qantas Fleet Presentation



Jeremy, Qantas Baggage Handler and Ramp Worker



Chris, Qantas Baggage Handler

[READ PETER'S ARTICLE](#)

# QANTAS WORKERS RESPOND

Congratulations to Qantas workers who responded straight away to Qantas' appalling decision by sharing your stories with the media, and a special shout out to little Hunter, pictured here, for stealing the show!

[Watch this 10 News clip](#) from the day Qantas rejected workers' bid.



# QANTAS WORKERS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Following the terrible news that Qantas rejected workers' bid for their own jobs, a delegation of workers from Canberra airport went to Parliament House to share their story with politicians. During the visit, workers met with ALP Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese, Shadow Transport Minister Catherine King and Deputy PM and Transport Minister Michael McCormack, ALP politicians Tony Burke, Tanya Plibersek, Matt Thistlethwaite, Senator Tony Sheldon and Senator Glenn Sterle as well as Greens MP Nita Green, Independent MP Bob Katter and One Nation Senator Pauline Hanson.

Workers also sat in on Question Time in both the Senate and Lower House where questions were raised by the ALP about a lack of support for Qantas workers. Congratulations to Qantas workers for keeping up this fight even as Qantas continues to knock us back. We are gaining support across all political parties and this is something to celebrate. Now we must keep the pressure on.



# SOLIDARITY FROM POLITICIANS

Thanks to your tireless efforts in telling your stories, emailing MPs and signing our petition, there have already been motions condemning Qantas in both the NSW and Federal parliaments, and a Senate Inquiry into aviation announced. There's also been overwhelming support from politicians all across Australia, even though the Prime Minister has remained silent. Just some of our supporters are pictured below.





## QANTAS HAS DENIED SICK LEAVE TO WORKERS

Peter worked for Qantas for 31 years – over that time, he'd accrued significant sick leave. When he was diagnosed with cancer he was relying on that sick leave to keep him afloat. Then Qantas turned around and put him on JobKeeper – nowhere near enough to cover his expenses when one PET scan cost \$600.

Given Qantas can spend hundreds of thousands on taking this matter to court, as well as being able to afford front-page newspaper advertising, it is absolutely appalling that it could not honour sick leave entitlement for workers like Peter.

## IN-PRINCIPLE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT VIRGIN



For what's been the most tumultuous year on record in aviation, we've managed some significant wins in the proposed Virgin EAs, which you'll be voting on in the coming weeks. Your TWU bargaining committee pushed back against several of Virgin's original claims that would have stripped back your pay and conditions, and that's been possible because of your hard work sticking together and demanding better. It's even more important now to be a TWU member to build strength for further bargaining when aviation begins to recover.

## SWISSPORT IN THE FAIR WORK COMMISSION

Swissport has already been exposed in the past for forcing workers to sleep at the airport by working gruelling split shifts. It has sought approvals since 2017 on several substandard EAs, and lost every time, and is now in the FWC again for its latest dodgy deal.

Around 1,000 of 2,500 outsourced Qantas jobs will go to Swissport, with Qantas using the excuse of a pandemic to conveniently throw workers on the scrap heap. It is well and truly time for the Federal Government to step in and end the race to the bottom on aviation workers' pay and conditions.

## GLOBAL COVID-19 SURVEY FOR AVIATION WORKERS



The International Transport Workers' Federation is conducting research into how covid-19 has affected aviation workers around the world. Have your say and take the survey here: <https://itf-global.typeform.com/to/M5SENriM>

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

[www.twu.com.au/join](http://www.twu.com.au/join)

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