

National Office

a. 388-390 Sussex St, Sydney NSW 2000

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ABN 18 559 030 246



www.twu.com.au

National Secretary
Michael Kaine

17 November 2021

Dear Qantas Board,

We write to you – as former Qantas workers and their supporters – following the Federal Court judgment which said Qantas' decision to sack almost 2,000 ground crew was unlawful.

As Qantas marks 101 years of operation this week, we wish we could be celebrating.

Many of us sat through the court proceedings and found them distressing and painful. Hearing that the pandemic was seen as a “vanishing window” and a “transformational opportunity” was devastating. We were deliberately targeted because we were about to begin negotiations for better pay and conditions as is our workplace right.

This is an important right under Australian law, one which even the Governor of the Reserve Bank has encouraged workers to do to lift wages. We lost jobs that we loved, and we lost the livelihoods that helped support our families. To think our outsourcing was considered a chance to off-load us because we were prepared to stand up for ourselves is despicable.

Few of us have been able to move on. Most have not been able to get full-time work, even less using the skills that we have built up from our time working at the airport. The personal lives of many workers have been thrown into disarray, with marriages breaking down and many of us still dealing with the emotional distress of being outsourced.

An independent survey has revealed that 78% of workers outsourced want to return to our jobs and are ready to start work.

In light of the Federal Court's decision to reject two attempts to delay remedy hearings, we've got two simple requests for you so that our suffering does not drag on any longer:

1. Instruct Qantas management to drop the plan to appeal; and
2. Instruct Qantas management to immediately offer outsourced workers their jobs back.

This is your chance as a board member to stand up for those who helped build Qantas and ensure confidence among the Australian community, which has done so much since the start of the pandemic to support Qantas.

NSW/QLD State Secretary
Richard Olsen
1800 729 909

Vic/Tas State Secretary
John Berger
1300 727 614

WA State Secretary
Tim Dawson
08 6313 3000

SA/NT State Secretary
Ian Smith
08 8346 4177

Transport Workers' Union of Australia

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This matter is becoming increasingly urgent as horror safety incidents keep occurring. Today, a report by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau cited worker inexperience as the cause of a Qantas flight taking off with locking pins in the landing gear - the latest in a long series of safety incidents since we lost our jobs.

It has been distressing to see the proud reputation for safety we built over decades at Qantas tarnished as a result of our outsourcing. Other incidents include belt loaders crashing into planes on one occasion leaving a gaping hole, incorrect weights being given to pilots prior to take-off, and damage to property including a child's wheelchair being smashed.

At the recent Qantas AGM, shareholders spoke out against the decision to outsource workers. This follows a motion passed in the Senate last year condemning the move. This decision is harming Qantas, its brand and reputation.

We urge a reset on the culture in Qantas and a rethink on its attitude to those who should be the most important asset: its workers.

As more Qantas planes are set to return to the skies, we are ready to get them safely into the air.

We would be happy to meet you to discuss further how we can help Qantas rebuild for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Kaine, TWU National Secretary

Senator Tony Sheldon, Senator for NSW

The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Federal Member for Kingsford Smith

Anika Wells MP, Federal Member for Lilley

The Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Member of the NSW Legislative Council

3,000 former Qantas workers and supporters.