

RETAIL SUPPLY CHAIN ALLIANCE'S SUPPLY CHAIN SAFETY PRINCIPLES



The Retail Supply Chain Alliance calls on Federal MPs to pledge their commitment to the below Supply Chain Safety Principles. There is no better time to focus on the need to safeguard our critical supply chains against external shocks like COVID variants and natural disasters.

1. COVID-SAFE SUPPLY CHAINS

- ▶ The Federal Government's refusal to provide free rapid tests to workers, despite numerous warnings from unions, has wreaked havoc on supply chains and emptied supermarket shelves.
- ▶ Relaxing close contact rules has only worsened the situation and made workplaces less safe. We need to shore up our defences with the tools to catch and isolate the virus before it spreads through our essential workforce.

ACTION Commit to free rapid antigen tests for transport, logistics and retail workers

2. SECURE WORKING CONDITIONS

- ▶ Supply chain bedlam has been exacerbated by a job security crisis brought on by underemployment, casualisation and the exploitation of gig workers.
- ▶ Financially stressed workers feel pressured to keep working while sick or infectious, endangering communities and making workplaces less safe.
- ▶ Stood-down casual workers caught up in flooding are unpaid. Owner truck drivers already on wafer-thin margins are at risk of going under.
- ▶ Unchecked gig behemoths like Amazon Flex are undermining traditional transport companies, deliberately putting workers outside our industrial relations system, and driving a race to the bottom.

ACTION Commit to regulate the gig economy to end the Amazon Effect. Regulation should include an independent body to set and enforce minimum standards throughout the gig economy.

3. STANDING SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITTEE

- ▶ Scott Morrison refused to listen when workers proposed practical responses to COVID risks, like priority to rapid antigen tests to keep supply chains moving.
- ▶ Knee-jerk political responses without a notion of consultation have risked industry safety in Australia's deadliest industry, such as proposals to make snap changes to truck licencing and the minimum age to drive forklifts.

ACTION Commit to establishing a standing Supply Chain Committee, bringing together workers, unions and industry representatives like ARTIO. The Committee should meet bi-annually to discuss national supply chain issues, and must be consulted prior to the Federal Government making any policy decisions which may disrupt supply chains or make workplaces less safe.