



RTBU SAFETY

18 April 2018

TOUGHER PENALTIES TO PROTECT PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKERS

RTBU Members have for too long been at the wrong end of verbal and physical abuse from the public, particularly when services are delayed, altered or cancelled. In 2017 it was reported that since 2015 there were 141 reports of assault on public transport workers.

While the RTBU has campaigned for employers to do more to protect employees, more must be done to protect front-line public transport workers from abusive & undesirable members of the public

While we continue to campaign for greater protections to be implemented by employers, the RTBU has resolved to demand that tougher penalties be introduced by the State Government to clamp down on the abusive minority jeopardising members' right to a safe workplace.

More must be done! Members demand and deserve a safe workplace, legislation needs to be introduced.

Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch has written to Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan (see attached) and a petition will be circulated in your workplace shortly.

Today, more than ever we must stand united as we push the government to support us to do our job with legislation to protect us from abuse at work!

Don't leave safety to chance.

8630 9100



The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP
Minister for Public Transport
1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via email: jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au

17 April 2018

Dear Minister,

Assaults on Public Transport Workers

I write to you once again with serious concern for the safety of RTBU members working in front line jobs across the network.

As you are aware, members working in customer facing roles experience consistent assaults. Unfortunately these instances continue to increase. In the last two weeks alone, there have been three serious assaults on staff members at Flinders Street Station.

I have written to you on a number of instances over the past few years calling for the Government to provide funding for two-up Barrier Staff and a number of further possible measures. These calls remain unanswered and to this day we face an issue where some staff report being scared to go to work every day, or experience knock on effects into other areas of their lives.

It is unacceptable, and no person should have to fear going to work.

Currently there are penalties that exist for assaulting emergency workers such as police officers, protective service officers, operational staff within the meaning of the *Ambulance Services Act 1986*, a fire-fighter, and other emergency workers listed in section 10AA(8) of the *Sentencing Act 1991 (Vic)*. The minimum penalty is a 6 month term of imprisonment for a person who intentionally or recklessly causes injury to an emergency worker on duty.

Following the introduction of this legislation, along with effective state funded publicity, many of these workers have reported improvements in their experience at work. Public Transport workers are no different and deserve this same respect that Emergency workers do.

The RTBU is therefore calling on the Victorian Government to:

1. Provide funding to Metro Trains Melbourne to have two-up on all Barriers across the network.
2. Introduce legislation with heavy penalties for assaulting a Public Transport worker.

The South Australian Government has introduced penalties for assaulting Public Transport workers which sees perpetrators facing up to 25 years imprisonment. The time is now for Victoria to leap into the 21st century and protect the workers who keep our transport system moving each day.

In light of ongoing and escalating incidents, transport workers urge you to firmly consider the best approach to introducing these practices and provide safety, certainty and security to front line workers.

I await your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luba', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luba Grigorovitch
Branch Secretary

CC: Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria