

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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RAILWAY WORKERS ON THE TRAINS



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

The Liberal Government introduced Protective Service Officers (PSOs) a few years back and although at the time

the RTBU fought their introduction, they proceeded. We were successful however in ensuring that PSOs do not work or travel on trains. We fought for this because the RTBU believes that Railway workers with customer service experience should travel on trains – not PSOs who hold guns.

Transit Police currently have a right to travel on trains due to receiving training much more comprehensive than the PSOs, whilst also catering for a specific need.

Consequently, for the past few years, keeping PSOs off our trains has been a 'tug-of-war' between the company, the Government and the Union. To date we have been successful, however recently it has been brought to my attention that members have a concern regarding PSOs travelling on trains.

I can safely confirm that PSOs are NOT permitted to travel on trains under any circumstance. There is no agreement whatsoever to allow this.

Further, this was confirmed in a meeting between myself and the new Secretary of The Police Association, Wayne Garrett (who has coverage over the PSOs) who advised me that TPA will not support PSOs travelling on trains.

There is a new classification of PSOs which allows them to rove between stations and around station premises; however they are never to travel on the trains between stations. When roving between stations, PSOs use alternate transportation such as a car.

In the event of an incident occurring on a train, PSOs may board the train to remove unruly passengers; however they are not permitted to travel on the train once it begins moving again.

The RTBU has fought to ensure that PSOs are not permitted to travel on trains and will continue to fight to ensure this does not occur.

If you have any questions or concerns please call your relevant organiser. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

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HEALTH & SAFETY

Identified a potential hazard?

Feel unsafe performing a task?

Unsure and need advice?

The Rail Industry is rife with dangerous interactions.

Your health and safety is paramount and your voice **MUST** be heard.

8630 9100

Send a confidential email:
safety@rtbuvic.com.au

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AUTHORISED OFFICER INVESTIGATIONS



Darren Galea

Organiser

Authorised Officers (AOs) have a difficult job at the best of times when dealing with the travelling public, as do many other front line workers.

Part of their job role is to report ticketing offences and misbehaviour. If there is an inquiry relating to any of their dealings with the travelling public, AOs get put through a thorough investigation process. Most of these investigations are held with Metro, Yarra Trams, V/Line or DEDJTR.

The RTBU has represented a number of AO members on many occasions, some stemming back to two or three years since the commencement of the investigation. It is unacceptable that the Authorised Officers are left for so long with their authority hanging in the balance.

The RTBU has written to the government on numerous occasions requesting that these investigations be expedited to get an outcome so that the AOs can move on with their normal jobs, however, to date we are yet to receive a response.

Some investigations are dragging on for almost three years, this is unreasonable and the Department needs to ensure that these investigations are finalised as soon as possible so that the AOs can move on with their lives.

The RTBU will continue to update all affected parties when there is any movement on this issue. ■

ARTC TAKES WORST EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Bryan Evans

Organiser

Battle lines are now drawn for major conflict with ARTC as they refuse to move an inch in the latest round of bargaining in a vain

attempt at reaching a new agreement. The RTBU and ETU amended their log of claims last week making an offer to ARTC which would have disarmed any major conflict, offering a near roll over with a modest pay rise. This was refused last week with ARTC once again hiding behind Federal Industrial Relations Minister, Michaela Cash and the Liberal's bargaining policy.

Being staunch in their own beliefs, ARTC ran past the Unions and released their idea of a 'perfect world' agreement to members in November last year which was overwhelmingly voted down with a 97% NO vote.

ARTC are now back at the table singing sweet nothings about how wonderful it will be if the members sell their bonus days, make the disciplinary process up to management policy, remove contractual obligation with their "modern Q&A" format and if then, the agreement complies with the Liberal party's bargaining policy they will repay that with a maximum of 2% p.a. pay rise.

It's time ARTC remembered they are in the Victorian Rail Industry.

We call all members to support the ARTC members in their upcoming dispute. ■





WORKERS COMPENSATION **1800 555 777**

The compensation meant I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon Lawyers

Contact us

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State Secretary

Luba Grigorovitch

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