



RAIL TRAM & BUS UNION

Tram & Bus Division

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COVID-19 UPDATE: Yarra Trams' correspondence

31 March 2020

Expression of Interest for voluntary leave

Today, members were sent an Expression of Interest (**EOI**) form by Yarra Trams for voluntary leave.

Earlier today we wrote to Yarra Trams and requested that they answer a number of questions to clarify the situation before sending the EOI to members. Disgracefully, Yarra Trams did not respond to our written questions and sent the EOI out anyway. This is not the standard of behaviour we expect in these difficult times.

Our advice to members is that, in the present circumstances, **if you are ready, willing and able to work, we do not encourage you to fill out the EOI**. We understand that some members with health issues or particular concerns may wish to apply for leave. That is their choice. However, for everyone else, we say that the current situation is uncertain and timetables may not be reduced. Even if timetables are reduced, it is far from clear how this will affect your terms and conditions, if at all. Accordingly, if you're able to work, the RTBU encourages you not to fill out the EOI.

Members aged 70+; 60+ members with chronic illnesses; and 50+ indigenous members

Following unlawful directions by Yarra Trams to members aged 70 years and over to not attend for work and use their leave entitlements, the RTBU wrote to Yarra Trams to demand that they cease making such directions.

Yarra Trams has today backed down from their unlawful position and given members aged over 70; members aged over 60 with chronic illnesses; and indigenous members over the age of 50; the choice of whether to continue working or take accrued leave. This is a matter for these members. However, members must not be pressured, including pressured into disclosing confidential information. We also note that such members are not being offered the opportunity to take personal leave. The RTBU will be taking this issue up with Yarra Trams.

If you have any concerns please contact the union on (03) 9600 3410.

Tarik Koç
Secretary

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Assistant Secretary