



RAIL TRAM & BUS UNION

Tram & Bus Division

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PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

8 April 2020

The RTBU is in dispute with Yarra Trams regarding their directions to employees to attend periodic health assessments much earlier than they are required.

The RTBU is concerned that Yarra Trams' directions that employees attend premature periodic health assessments are not in accordance with the National Standard for Health Assessments of Rail Safety Workers and contrary to the directives and guidelines from the Federal Government and State Government to avoid non-essential activity during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Attending periodic health assessments at the required time *is* an essential activity. Attending premature periodic health assessments *is not* essential activity. We believe that directions to attend premature health assessments in the current pandemic endangers the health of employees, authorised health professionals and the public.

Yarra Trams has now written to the RTBU and informed us that a number of members were contacted and "encouraged" to undergo a periodic health assessment before 24 April 2020. Yarra Trams has confirmed that there are no repercussions for employees who do not undergo a periodic health assessment prior to 24 April 2020 – **as long as members undergo a periodic health assessment within the time that they must be performed.**

Accordingly, in the current situation, the RTBU encourages members not to undergo premature periodic health assessments. Instead, we encourage members to arrange and undergo periodic health assessments at such a time that they will be done before the date they are required to be completed. However, there is currently no requirement that health assessments be done much earlier than required.

We also note that if the new Operations EBA is approved, members will receive a 4 hour payment (rather than the current 2 hour payment) for attending periodic health assessments once the new EBA comes into force.

Tarik Koç
Secretary

Mario Mizzi
Assistant Secretary