

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
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**Luba Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

## PSOs NOW TRAVELLING ON TRAINS

As most of you would know, for many years now there has been discussion around the possibility of PSOs travelling on trains.

Over the years, there has been a 'tug-of-war' between the companies, the Government and the Union to keep PSOs off our trains. When PSOs were first introduced on the public transport network, we fought to ensure that they would not travel on trains.

However, in late August, the RTBU was informed that the plan was for PSOs to travel on trains as of Sunday 2 September 2018. We therefore sprung into full gear with ongoing negotiations happening between the RTBU, VICPOL, DOJ and PTV in relation to the RTBU allowing PSOs to travel on trains.

Although the first duty of a PSO is to man all stations from 6pm to last train, an agreement has now been reached which will see excess PSOs able to travel on trains from Sunday 2 September. This change has come about thanks to the job security provided via negotiations that took place over the past weeks.

AO Delegates from across the network have been involved in the entire process. With many AO Delegates spending hours at the Union Office ironing out the nuts and bolts of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Through the assistance of our hardworking Delegates, the RTBU was able to sign off on a memorandum of understanding between the RTBU, Victoria Police, The Police Association and Public Transport Victoria that the members of the RTBU were happy with.

Through these negotiations, we also received confirmation from PTV that the establishment numbers for AOs will be maintained for the life of the operators' contracts with the State. This means that the current number of 620 AOs across V/Line, Metro, PTV, Yarra Trams and Ventura will be maintained.



Following a Delegates meeting that took place last week, the RTBU has confirmed with VICPOL that Members look forward to working even more collaboratively with the PSOs from 2 September.

Further, we have secured a commitment from VICPOL that PSOs will be instructed to more actively assist all Rail workers with any issues or incidents that may occur on the network, rather than referring them to 000.

Below is the motion which was passed at the Delegates meeting:

*That this meeting of Authorised Officer (AO) Delegates commends the work done by the RTBU, VICPOL, DOJ and PTV.*

*Job Security and ensuring AOs play an ongoing role in the future of the Public Transport network is paramount.*

- ❑ *The guarantee of establishment numbers.*
- ❑ *The proposed amendment to the regulations.*
- ❑ *The risk assessment that took place.*
- ❑ *and, the good faith shown by the Government with the guarantee to employ additional AOs for the future, demonstrates to us that AOs are valued by both the Government and PTV*

*Having seen these documents, we instruct the Branch Secretary to sign the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, which ultimately sets out a clear demarcation*

*of duties along with the boundaries for work between Authorised Officers and Transit Protective Service Officers (PSO).*

*Because of the above negotiations we are satisfied that there is no threat to the job security of AOs.*

*Further we look forward to working collaboratively with PSOs from Sunday 2 September.*

*We look forward to these negotiations creating an even stronger working relationship with PSOs and we call on the RTBU, TPA, VICPOL and PTV to arrange a workshop with AOs and PSOs to ensure we share ideas and also have the best working relationship possible for the betterment of the travelling public.*

*Passed Unanimously*

Meetings at all AO depots have taken place over the last few weeks to ensure all Members are aware of this change.

Without the strength and unity of RTBU members, this great win would not have been possible. I thank each and everyone one of you who were involved in the negotiations for this, our unity shone through in a time where we needed to stand together to get the best deal possible for RTBU members.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
- State Secretary



## RTBU WOMEN GO TO SEYMOUR

Another awesome meeting of RTBU Women in Seymour with discussion around the current issues for working women in the public transport industry.

Thanks to all who attended!



**Cathy Birch**

Organiser

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA (PTV) HUB

Members at our larger companies such as Metro and V/Line often don't realise that we cover Members in many other organisations. The PTV Hub at Southern Cross Station is an active union workplace with two Delegates and have many similar issues as our other workplaces. Similarly to our other workplaces, the Delegates there work extremely hard to achieve results for our Members.

Earlier this year, the PTV hub had problems with the air conditioner where staff were working in conditions of extremely high temperatures. The Delegates and HSRs worked together to get the hub shut down and operated from an alternate location despite pressure from PTV to 'put up with' the high temperatures.

High temperatures lead to heat stress, dehydration and fatigue and working in high temperatures is not good for anyone. After a second, similar episode and sustained pressure from Delegates and HSRs, the air conditioner was fixed.

More recently and after a protracted campaign and risk assessment around safety for staff, an additional role was introduced, approved and rostered for a part-time staff member. This has only happened through the strength of the RTBU members at the PTV Hub. The members and delegates refused to stop insisting PTV address this issue and their persistence paid off. Great work and well done to all. This is a really good example of how "the Workers, United, Will Never be Defeated."

PTV staff also don't get free travel which is extremely disappointing. They are Public Transport workers and they deserve to receive this perk as much as their counterparts in Metro and V/Line.

When there is an event and people who don't regularly use public transport are trying to, their workload goes up.

When V/Line closes one of the booking offices at Southern Cross Station the Hub workload increases. When Station Officers across the network are unable to resolve myki issues for customers, the PTV hub work load increases. Station staff sometimes refer customers to the hub because they believe the hub has superior access to resolve issues

instantly, which they do not in fact have.

This often creates unrealistic expectations in customers who then abuse these staff when their issue is neither magically nor instantly resolved. PTV hub staff also face abuse and assaults from customers, and no one should feel unsafe at work. It is never okay to yell at, threaten or swear at anyone.

The RTBU is running a campaign to better protect public transport workers and increase the penalty for assaults. The PTV Call Centre staff members are also public transport workers. Please spare a thought for these members and don't promise customers what they can't deliver.

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Luba Grigorovitch

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