

RTBU EXPRESS



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Vik Sharma

State Secretary

ANOTHER RTBU WIN: TOUGHER PENALTIES TO PROTECT FRONT LINE WORKERS

Over recent years the RTBU has campaigned for tougher penalties to deter and prosecute offenders to keep members safe on the job. We have advocated for these sensible changes because we understand what members are facing every day in every corner of the state.

At the Victorian ALP State Conference, Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria announced at the that the government would be introducing tougher legislation to protect front line workers from violence and aggression at work.

From Brunswick to Bairnsdale, working hard to deliver and uphold services across the state, members are on the front lines facing abuse that must never be tolerated.

This announcement is a huge positive step in the right direction and would not have been possible without the hard work of RTBU members supporting our safety campaign, demanding change on the front lines.

The RTBU will continue to engage with government as legislation is drafted and will continue to keep members informed of any developments. Naturally this will take some time to get right, but with a seat at the table we will be working to ensure the best possible outcomes.

This work compliments the efforts we continue to make through the Safe Public Transport working committee and work locally with employers. This underscores the importance of raising and reporting safety issues when they arise. This includes any form of violence and aggression, verbal or physical, along with any other safety concerns identified across the network.

At the Conference, I successfully had a motion overwhelmingly endorsed by delegates condemning the Victorian State Wages Policy and the way it is designed to establish unfair disparity in bargaining between government

corporations (like V/Line) and private franchise operators (like Metro and Yarra Trams).

Further, we achieved strong media coverage over the again postponed Airport Rail Link that has been on the cards since the 1960s. It is clear that Victorians want to see this project go ahead!

Vik Sharma

Victorian Branch Secretary

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Sally van Bragt

Organiser

OUT AND ABOUT

PROBE EA BARGAINING INITIATED

The RTBU has been campaigning for a new EA for RTBU Members at the PTV contact center.

Members, who work at Probe under a Department of Transport and Planning contract, have been working under an enterprise agreement that expired in 2019.

Despite best efforts, the RTBU have come up against unwavering Management, who have refused to budge on negotiating a new replacement agreement.

RTBU Organisers have been strategising the best way forward, preparing a log of claims, exploring options and making preparations to bring Probe to the bargaining table.

We are pleased to advise members this hard work has paid off!

Under new workplace laws introduced by the Federal government, we wrote to Probe to initiate bargaining.

Online meetings are being organised for members to attend, and we encourage all Probe members to prioritise attending them to ensure you have the most up to date information about the progress of bargaining for your wages and conditions.

If you know anyone in your workplace who is yet to join the RTBU, there has never been a better time to join their union.

Speak to your RTBU delegates Hervindar Kaur and Maria Dolcetta, or contact your RTBU Organiser Sally van Bragt for information on how to sign up as a member.

You can also join the RTBU online here: www.rtbuvic.com.au/join

WIMDOI WRAP-UP

From 7 May to 9 May this year, 250 women from over 30 Unions across Australia and New Zealand gathered together to attend the bi-annual Women In Male Dominated Occupations and Industries (WIMDOI) conference.

Alongside the conference, we also partook in May Day celebrations and it was great to celebrate and show solidarity with Queensland comrades.

The RTBU was represented by 24 women from branches all around the country including Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Created 25 years ago, the WIMDOI collective aims to empower women in the workplace to come together and gain skills in campaigning and union representation. The WIMDOI conference brings together union women who work in male dominated industries together to raise common issues encountered in the workplace and collaborate on ways to resolve those issues.

The conference provides an educational opportunity for women to discuss past and present campaigns and share union wins.



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