



# RTBU EXPRESS

May Newsletter



## Secretary's message

Dear members,

We had a fantastic start to the month with RTBU NSW members showing up in full force at our May Day rallies across the state. I was proud to see so many members come together to stand up and fight back in solidarity with other workers across the state.

There was a great buzz to all our rallies, particularly our biggest RTBU crowd in Sydney, who chanted loud and proud down the streets of the Sydney CBD.

It's never been more important that we, as workers, stand united. We've seen another clear example of that in the past weeks with the Berejiklian Government's overhaul of the electoral funding laws – a blatant attempt to stifle unions and advocacy groups from banding together to run campaigns during elections. The completely flawed legislation limits third parties who engage in joint campaigns – as unions often do (think Workchoices...) – to \$500,000. While the Liberal Party tends to have access

to corporate donations and wealthy donors, working people often have to pool our money in order to have a voice in democracy.

As Unions NSW Secretary, Mark Morey said, "This is the political equivalent of match-fixing and anyone with an interest in free speech and robust debate should be concerned."

Whether it's at a state or a federal level, it is clear workers' rights are under attack from conservative governments at the moment. We saw it first hand with the NSW Government's attack on us during the Sydney and NSW Trains EA dispute; we're seeing it with the NSW electoral funding overhaul; we're seeing it federally with IR laws that swing too far in favour of the bosses. If you haven't joined the ACTU's Change the Rules campaign, make sure you go to [www.changetherules.org.au](http://www.changetherules.org.au) and sign up now. We need to stand together if we're going to swing the pendulum of fairness back where it belongs.

On a more positive note, however, it was heartening to see the minimum wage increased by 3.5% on Friday.



Member at May Day 2018

It's a step in the right direction, and was hard fought for. But the decision to grant such an increase shows just how low the minimum wage has been – the need to correct the low wage rate by 3.5% is a sign that for too long our lowest paid haven't been paid fairly. There's more work to be done in boosting this historically low wage, but Friday's decision was definitely a positive development.

Finally, well done to all members at ARTC who have posted their vote in the Protected Action Ballot. It's been anything but a smooth bargaining process but together, we will continue to do what it takes to get the agreement we want.

Alex Claassens  
Secretary  
NSW RTBU Express



## May Day 2018

### Sydney Trains – Blacktown Crew Facility Access Pathway

As part of the consultation process for the Blacktown Train Crew Facility, it was agreed that a formal



Staff pleased that the Blacktown train crew facility has been completed.

walking path would be constructed so staff would not need to walk through the commuter car park or the bus terminal to access it. As the pathway was not in the original planning for the Crew Facility, it was agreed that the interim path to Blacktown station would be via the bus terminal and the escalator near Platform 3. After almost 18 months of planning, construction of a suitable pathway has now been completed.

[Read more on RTBU Express.](#)

This month, RTBU members joined together for May Day toasts and rallies across the state.

May Day is an annual day of action to celebrate the achievement of our union movement and workers' rights across the world.

For us at the RTBU NSW, it was also a way to send a clear message to this Liberal Government – in particular – Andrew Constance. Our workforce has been consistently under attack with the Liberal Government's obsession with privatisation and driving down the workforce. This year the right to strike was taken from us, so now more than ever, we must stand up and fight back. Sunday May 6th was a fantastic show of solidarity across our divisions. We were in full force at all three rallies in Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney.

It was a day that was enjoyed day by all, with the kids enjoying free rides and activities all afternoon.

Check out some of the photos below, and make sure to watch the videos on our Facebook page.





## Second Newcastle Debate in Parliament

Novocastrians travelled to Sydney on Thursday May 17 to pack out NSW Parliament again for the second heated debate about Newcastle's disastrous bus privatisation.

A petition opposing the timetable changes implemented by Keolis Downer gathered enough signatures to trigger not one, but two debates in State Parliament. Both debates highlighted the myriad of problems privatisation has caused in Newcastle.

RTBU NSW Bus & Tram Secretary, Chris Preston, said "Novocastrians have had enough of the chaos that Constance's greedy privatisation has created in their lives.

We've said it all along, when public transport is run by a private operator, it's commuters who have to suffer."

But we all know a debate is not enough. We need action by this NSW Government to stop the sell off and explain to commuters why they're prioritising private profits over public, taxpayer needs.

## Release 'secret' Blue Mountains rail line documents: Labor MP Trish Doyle

Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle has called on the NSW Government to release suppressed documents about future plans for the rail service to Lithgow when the new intercity fleet is introduced on the Blue Mountains line in 2021.

Ms Doyle lodged a freedom of information request with Transport for NSW requesting any government documentation which considered the cutbacks of electric passenger services between Lithgow as a consequence of modifications needed for the new train carriages to fit through the narrow Ten Tunnels Deviation between Bell and Lithgow. [Read the Blue Mountains Gazette story here.](#)

## ARTC - management forcing another substandard EA to a vote again

Voting on ARTC management's proposed enterprise agreement has now closed. In breaking news, the offer has been voted down. 74% of ARTC Infrastructure employees voted against management's offer. The RTBU strongly recommended ARTC members vote 'no' to the company's proposed agreement. It is possible to stick together, fight and win a better outcome. [Read the latest on the ARTC situation here.](#)

## Stop the Secrecy at Sydney & NSW Trains

A veil of secrecy is starting to fall over Sydney and NSW Trains, this direction has clearly come at the political request from Transport for NSW. Delegates are now being asked to sign confidentiality documents before they have discussions with management about their working conditions.

As a member/delegate employed by Sydney/NSW Trains you are already covered by the Code of Conduct and there should be no need for you to sign an additional confidentiality form in normal circumstances. If you or your delegates are asked to sign any type of document that mentions "confidentiality", **DO NOT SIGN** it and please call the union office on 9264 2511. [Read the full bulletin on RTBU Express.](#)



## Minimum wage increase a step in the right direction

The recent announcement that the minimum wage will be increased by 3.5%, or \$24.32 per week, is a step towards fairness but will still leave some full-time workers struggling.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) says that the restoration of a living wage – one of the proudest achievements of the early Australian union movement – remains the goal of the union movement's ongoing campaign.

ACTU Secretary, Sally McManus, said the minimum shouldn't leave people in poverty – it should provide a comfortable life for low-paid workers. "This increase is a step in the right direction, and takes us closer to our goal of 60% of the median wage," Ms McManus said after the announcement.

"The minimum wage should be pegged at 60% of the median wage. This is the level set by the OECD – that is what's required to ensure that every full-time worker in Australia can survive on their wage. "All Australian workers need a pay rise, but none more so than the 2.3 million people who are now award reliant. This 3.5% increase that equates to \$26.71 per week for a hospitality worker or \$24.33 for a horticulture worker will be a welcome reprieve for them but we will continue to fight for the restoration of a living wage that underpins a much fairer collective bargaining system."

"We have to change the rules on the minimum wage. People who have been forced into poverty by the inadequacy of this wage should not have to wait every year to see if they will be saved by the Fair Work Commission. The minimum wage should be set to keep pace with wages."

## Transport Heritage Expo

The award-winning Transport Heritage Expo is back on the 9th – 11th of June at Central Station, Sydney.

The expo brings Sydney's transport history to life with heritage train and bus rides, train displays, live music and much more.

Bring the family along and enjoy the trip back in memory lane. **Look out for RTBU Secretary, Alex Claassens who will be at the event over the weekend.**

Details at [www.transportheritageexpo.com](http://www.transportheritageexpo.com)

## CEO Sleepout



On Thursday 21 June, I am sleeping rough yet again for the 7th time to raise funds and awareness for people experiencing homelessness as part of the 2018 Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

As a union leader I am committed to social justice and protecting the rights of workers and I know how easy it can be to find yourself out of a job, fall on hard times and spiral into homelessness. It would be unimaginable to have to live through a Sydney winter without a roof over your head and it's important we all remember that there are now over 105,000 men, women and

children in Australia who do so every year. It's these people I will be thinking of as I huddle up for the night at the White Bay Cruise Terminal. If you're able, it would be great if you could sponsor me to raise money for this important cause. [Click here](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au) or simply search for Alex Claassens at [www.ceosleepout.org.au](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au).

All money raised will go towards helping the many people experiencing homelessness to find the warmth, safety and dignity that they desperately deserve. It only takes a moment to make a difference. - Alex Claassens, RTBU Secretary



**WIN a  
\$750 Bunnings  
Gift Card\*!**

# Join us and go into the draw to WIN!

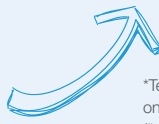
Join rt health between 1 May and 31 July 2018 and we'll put you into the draw. It's as easy as that!

## rt members enjoy:

- No excess for dependent children covered by your hospital cover
- Super prices for sole-parents
- A 30-day money back guarantee<sup>^</sup>
- Complete continuity of cover if you've already served waiting periods with another fund and take a similar level of cover with us.

## 4 ways to win:

- Call us on **1300 56 46 46**
- Email [join@rthealth.com.au](mailto:join@rthealth.com.au) with your details
- Join online at [rthealth.com.au](http://rthealth.com.au)
- Fill out your details on the form, hand it back to us, and we'll contact you.



## Please contact:

Fill out this form and hand back to your account manager, or give us a call on **1300 56 46 46**.

\*Terms and conditions apply. Permit No NSW LTPS/18/23835. <sup>^</sup>30-day cooling off period refund applies only when you have not made a claim. Railway & Transport Health Fund Limited (ACN 087 648 744) ("rt health"). 0418/3290

*We make it simpler*



# Save money by switching off cover for things you don't need ...

	Premium Hospital	Smart Hospital	Step Up Hospital	First Start Hospital
<b>DIFFERENT EXCESS OPTIONS TO HELP KEEP THE PRICES DOWN</b>				
\$0 excess	✓	✗	✗	✗
\$250 excess	✓	✓	✓	✓
\$500 excess	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day surgery excess	✗	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>SOME COVERS HAVE EXCLUSIONS OR RESTRICTIONS (COVERED IN A PUBLIC HOSPITAL ONLY) TO HELP KEEP PRICES DOWN</b>				
Joint replacement procedures and their revisions	No exclusions or restrictions	✗	✗	✗
Kidney dialysis		✗	✗	✗
Spinal surgery		✓	✗	✗
Major eye surgery		✓	✗	✗
Cardiac procedures		✓	Restricted	✗
Obstetrics and other pregnancy related services		✓	Restricted	✗
Assisted reproductive services and treatments (e.g. IVF)		✓	Restricted	✗
Psychiatric treatment		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted
Rehabilitation treatment		✓	Restricted	Restricted
Anti-obesity (weight-loss) surgery (e.g. lap band surgery)		✓	Restricted	Restricted
<b>OTHER SPECIAL BENEFITS</b>				
Special pricing for sole-parent families	✓	✓	✓	✓
No excess for kids under 21	✓	✓	✓	✓
	From \$35.65 per week*	From \$30.80 per week*	From \$23.10 per week*	From \$18.05 per week*

**MIX 'N' MATCH**

	Premium Extras	Smart Extras	Value Extras
<b>SERVICES</b>			
General dental	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
Major dental	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗
Orthodontics	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗
Optical	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
Physio and chiro	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
Gym membership	✓	✓	✗
And many more ...	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
	From \$16.10 per week*	From \$11.65 per week*	From \$5.40 per week*

**Plus members enjoy 40% off QBE Travel insurance<sup>^</sup> and preferential pricing at our Healthy Centres!**

**1300 56 46 46**  
[join@rthealth.com.au](mailto:join@rthealth.com.au) / [rthealth.com.au](http://rthealth.com.au)

**rt health** (MEMBERS OWN)  
 HEALTH FUND

\*Prices are indicative, based on a single, NSW-based membership, receiving a 25.415% rebate with no Lifetime Health Cover loading and \$500 excess. Prices rounded up to nearest 0.05 cent. The information contained in this fact sheet is general information about rt's insurance services and products, and provides a summary of our covers. rt takes care to ensure the information found in it is complete and accurate. The information does not however represent the complete list of cover, waiting periods and benefits in relation to rt's insurance services. rt accepts no responsibility for loss or expense arising from reliance on the information found solely in this document. You should confirm any benefit, waiting period or statement within any of rt's policies and obtain advice specific to your individual circumstances by contacting rt health on 1300 56 46 46. ^Terms and conditions apply, see <http://travel.qbe.com/qbe/rthealth> for more details.