

Safety, Cuddly Uniforms and More Lies

New Uniforms

RailCorp are undertaking focus groups to determine which would be the best uniform to implement. A number of practical concerns have been raised in relation to the proposed uniforms. However, RailCorp's response to RTBU concerns is that the preliminary feedback from focus groups the current pants are too "SWAT like" and threatening.



RailCorp's new focus grouped Transit Uniform. As the current uniform is too threatening they are going with something more customer friendly and appealing to the kiddies.

RailCorp's uniform proposals are currently:

1. Blue Shirt, New Design Black Utility Pants;
2. White Shirt, New Design Black Utility Pants; or
3. Current Uniform.

Unfortunately it appears again that RailCorp are putting spin and ascetics before the workplace needs and safety of RTBU transit officer members.

Rostering Dispute

A dispute was recently lodged with RailCorp over their failure to abide by the undertakings they made prior to implementing the current roster. The undertakings RailCorp made were:

- to hold monthly meetings to develop a new roster;
- to develop a new roster within 6 months of implementing the current roster; and
- new rosters would consider a 9.5 or 10 hour roster.

RailCorp have reaffirmed their commitment to follow the agreement reached between the parties to conduct a joint review of the master roster. RailCorp have advised that Security Division management are presently finalising a document which outline the business requirements of the function.

RailCorp also advise they have not received a formal response from the RTBU and ASU setting out the rostering preferences of members. However, the RTBU and ASU have already provided this information to RailCorp.

Members will be kept informed as to the progress of this matter

Transit Officer Safety Campaign

The RTBU's Transit Officer Sub Division recently surveyed members on workplace safety. RTBU members were asked to complete a survey focusing on current the job description compared to the role undertaken by Transit Officers and whether workplace safety was a significant safety issue.

The response was overwhelmingly with 90% of RTBU Transit Officers identifying safety as a significant workplace issue. Further, RTBU members believe RailCorp is failing officers and neglecting their obligation to provide a safe workplace.

Another outcome from the survey was RTBU Transit Officers believe RailCorp expects them to undertake a function similar or equivalent to that of NSW police.

A meeting was held with senior management to raise issues from the survey. At this meeting the RTBU requested RailCorp to:

- provide its understanding of the job description under which Transit Officers operate; and
- undertake a third party risk assessment of the role of transit officers.

The RTBU stated RailCorp has a clear legal obligation to provide a safe workplace for all RTBU Transit Officers. To date, RailCorp has not provided any response to these serious safety issues. Members will be kept up to date on this very important issue