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Wednesday, 11th August 2021

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
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Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

I am writing in relation to the financial support for aviation workers announced by the Federal Government on Monday, 2 August 2021. We also refer to our letter to you dated Tuesday, 3 August 2021. We have not had a response from you yet.

From our discussions with airlines, it is clear that there is significant confusion about the details of the new financial support payments.

We are particularly alarmed by the following:

- Qantas has formally notified employees that they are stood down from work without pay, but have also advised that they do not have any details of the payments that will be available to employees – meaning employees are facing being stood down without any payment at all;
- Jetstar has also asked employees to express interest in being stood down on special leave without pay for the full 2 months of standdown, but is requiring them to sign a declaration that acknowledges they may not be eligible for the Government's financial support; and
- Virgin is proposing to manipulate its rosters to reduce the ordinary amount payable to its employees to an amount around \$450-550 per week, then skim the additional \$200-300 per week from the Federal Government payment for the business.

As you can imagine, the ongoing uncertainty is causing immense stress and anxiety among workers who are being stood down without any, or very little, income.

We ask that you confirm as a matter of urgency the details of the new financial support for aviation workers that you announced last Monday. Further, we ask that you confirm that employers are obliged to pass on the full amount of \$750 per week to their affected employees, and are not entitled to skim from the top of the payments to put the money in the pockets of the business.

We would welcome your urgent response, and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you on these issues. Please contact Fouzia Aden at faden@asu.asn.au to find a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Egaske", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Emeline Gaske
ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARY

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