



UNITED

WORKERS UNION

MEMBERS ON THE FRONTLINE:

OUR COVID-19 STORIES



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“It affects my work because clients are worried about having services.

It affects my work because I’m up at night worried about what houses I have to enter. Are they being safe? It also worries me I may pass on the virus unknowingly even though I am obsessive in regards to gloves and sanitizer and hand washing.

I don’t feel that we know enough. Nor do I feel the employer is taking enough precautions.

I have young children and a granddaughter at home. And I ask myself daily should I keep doing this job.”

- Kendall, Aged Care, NSW

“There is no longer any work. I am a single income house. I live alone.

I have my son 50% of the time. I may have to stop having him over because I may not be able to afford to feed him.”

- Gregory, Casino, WA



“I got an email yesterday, telling that there is no shift for me till further notice and they asked to fill in a form we to choose options. Since I just start working about 7 months ago (casual) and had been offered permanent part-time a month ago, I don’t have any choice but only choosing unpaid leave. I have four children and my partner working in security had his shift cut too. I don’t know what to do.”

- Puteri, Security, VIC

“I’m a full time day-shift cleaner at a private school since 2013. Just like that I was informed that I’m stood down. I asked my employer to sign me up to Job Keeper but because it hasn’t lost 30%, myself and 13 other workers are without one cent. Not our fault, we want to work, but tough luck. I don’t qualify for the dole because I have a part-time job. So living on the Job Seeker payment should be for all. We will ALL pay it back over the next THIRTY YEARS.”

- David, Cleaning, VIC





“I work in an essential service early learning centre, but it has slowly depleted from a full service.

There is no precaution put in place to protect ourselves from Novel Coronavirus. Whilst we are at work as early childhood educators, we cannot realistically work within social distancing ourselves from the children.

Our job is about caring and educating young children who are potentially getting it from their family and infecting everybody who comes into contact with the child.”

- Ebonie, Early Childhood Education & Care, VIC

“I work with high risk disabled people and have had to step back from assisting them with their daily needs. I had to advise my employer that I was coming down with what I assume is a cold and that I should stay away from certain clients.

Add on the fact I have a high risk son who had chronic Asthma, I couldn't risk sending him to pre-school and had to make the decision to keep all three of my children at home.

Therefore my loss of income will be ongoing as most of my family are unable to help me with care arrangements so I can go back to work.

However to my understanding they are cutting ‘unnecessary shifts’ meaning unless clients require more hands on physical assistance, my community access shifts have also been cut.

I went from working almost every day, to at present nothing. To nex week, I have three 4-hour shifts.

Add into the mix that my husband had his hours reduced from 38 a week down to 18.

We have 6 kids.

I don't think we will financially make it through this crisis.”

- Stephanie, Disability Services, QLD

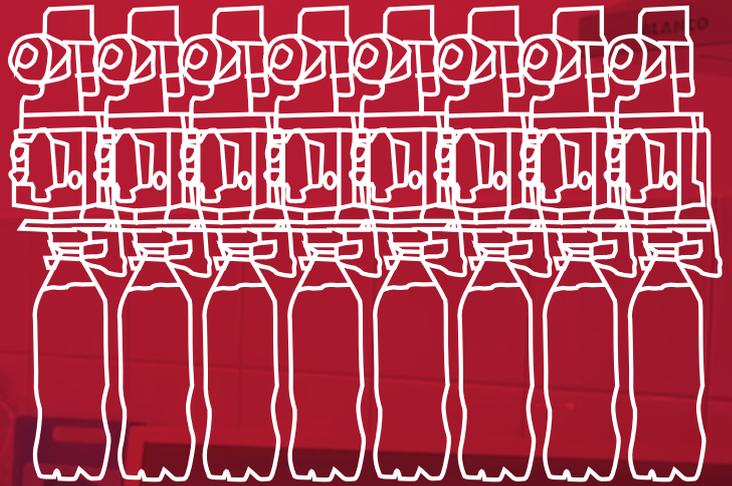


“The social distancing 1.5 metre rule is not happening within our factory while working on the floor.

There are four other people out of the factory in the lunch room.

You must keep 1.5 metres away from each other but why bother they care more about production than our health.”

- Jacqueline, Food & Beverage Manufacturing, QLD



“Being one of the first of thousands here in WA as a casual chef De-Partie to lose my job on the very first day the government implemented the social distancing restrictions and how many people are allowed to be in one place at a time.

Lost both my jobs in a matter of 8 hours. 40+ hours of work a week gone, with no way to pay rent or bills, I went into meltdown.

Having a night to think things through and make sure of what was needed to be done for the future, I contacted everyone I have financial commitments to, so i can organise a way to either pay later or freeze payments.”

- Ryan, Hospitality, WA

“I am employed through a casual agency for the past 5 years at the same assignment.

My employer has more contracts with other companies but the one I work for have no shifts for casuals for the past month.

In short, I have lost my shift but my employer is not eligible for the government benefit. I am also not eligible which doesn't make sense - my tax money is not supporting me when I need most.”

- Atulkumar, Logistics, VIC





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*- Natasha, Public Sector
(Health, Ambulance, Education), QLD*

“We need a wage subsidy for every worker.

We work hard, we pay taxes, now is the time for all workers to be supported.

We need a visa amnesty for undocumented workers.

If farm workers are left behind, it will be a risk to public health and food supply.”

- Yaya, Farms, VIC



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