



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News: Driver Assaults to be heard March 22

I am gutted - sick of the violence against our members who are just doing their jobs.

The latest figures show a continued spike in assaults on bus drivers. No less than 10 already this year, (as of the end of February). Add to this 53 verbal attacks that could have easily turned violent at any time. Surely we need more security now and our employer must take the responsibility to provide it.

Violence against bus drivers is unacceptable, one assault is too many. As isolated workers bus drivers are very much on their own when trouble flares up, assaults often happen without warning and are over within minutes but the damage often takes months or even years to recover from. Offenders should not get off lightly, penalties tough enough to be an effective deterrent need to be applied. Bus drivers need real protection and offenders need real punishment.

A petition calling for increased security personnel at recognised hot spots is circulating depots, be sure you sign it as this demonstrates that we are united in this campaign. If you would like to add any route or particular location to the list of hot spots email me at: tom.brown@rtbu.com.au.

March 22 will be a busy day at Brisbane Magistrates court as two separate cases of bus driver abuse/assault are listed on that Wednesday. I have been inundated by calls from members insisting that we be there in force to call for tougher penalties.

We will be there, the usual activists who represent the RTBU, but **you** are the force. We need all hands on deck on the 22nd to send a clear message that we will not tolerate this abuse. Enough is Enough.

Broken shift and late shift drivers, casuals, those with Wednesday off or on leave, retired members - **I call on you all to make an effort to come in.** Bring a friend or make it a family day out. The early birds will be arriving outside the Court from around 10am to get things going with the main rally around noon.

We have to stand up for ourselves. You deserve to feel safe and respected in the workplace.

Together we are a force to be reckoned with.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division