

23rd September 2009

It's time to fix our modern Awards ASU & FAAA members lobby in Canberra

Members and officials from the Australian Services Union (ASU) and Flight Attendants' Association of Australia, Domestic / Regional Division (FAAA) hit the ground running in Parliament House in Canberra last week to talk to politicians about the consequences for our members of the modernisation of the Airline Operations Ground Staff Award and the Aircraft Cabin Crew Award.

Over two intense and long days combined groups from each union saw 35 Federal Government politicians including Ministers, back-benchers and Senators from all States and Territories.

We had a united and clear message – that is that both unions' members have had cuts to our existing Federal Airline Industry Award wages and conditions that cannot be allowed to continue in the Modern Awards.

In the ASU Awards we have seen our classification structures undermined and new lower wage rates imposed, and existing long standing allowances abolished, and personal leave cut. While for the FAAA rostering work rules are eliminated and longer duty hours imposed and safeguards for pregnant flight attendants are removed from the safety net Federal Award.



What happened?

Our delegations asked all the MPs and Senators to contact the Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard (the responsible minister) to raise our concerns and ask her to issue another request to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) to fix the problems we highlighted. Julia Gillard has varied the request before in other industries so it can be done.

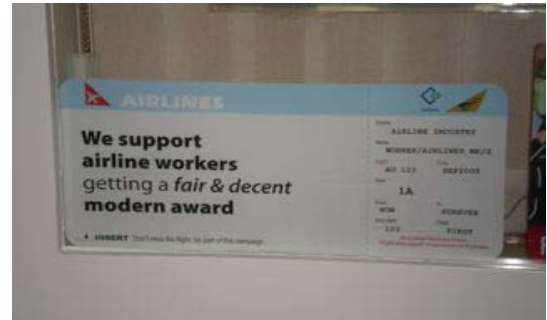
Each politician visited was given a poster to display in their offices together with an ASU and FAAA badge to wear when they fly to indicate their support for our issues. If you see politicians wearing our badges when they next come through your airport or on your flight let them know you appreciate their support.



What can you do?

The FAAA and ASU are organising various ways for you to communicate with our nation's Federal politicians – the ASU has an email campaign and both unions can provide you with an outline of a letter you can write to your local Member or Senator.

We need you to do this ASAP so contact your local ASU and FAAA reps for a draft letter.



Thanks to our delegates and members

A big thank you goes to the FAAA and ASU members and delegates from a range of airlines, and airline industry companies who went to Canberra – they all did so on their own time because they know how important it is to have proper safety net Awards. The personal stories gave a real insight into the effect these Modern Award changes will have on front-line staff.

We did not see every politician, so there is still much work to be done. If you would like to be involved in the ongoing campaign contact the FAAA and/or ASU office.



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