

To,  
All Members



Postal & Telecommunications  
Branch of Victoria  
Division of the CEPU  
ABN 30 490 675 447

PO Box 14  
Brunswick West  
Victoria 3055

Ph: (03) 9600 9100

Fax: (03) 9600 9133

Web Site: [www.cwuvic.asn.au](http://www.cwuvic.asn.au)

Email: [office@cwuvic.asn.au](mailto:office@cwuvic.asn.au)

## Letter from your State Secretary Leroy Lazaro and Officials of the Branch

### COVID-19 Vaccine mandate.

Australia Post have reversed the direction to corporate staff that they had to be vaccinated by this Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October (or show evidence that they had a first appointment booked by October 22<sup>nd</sup>) or else employees would be unable to work. The Victorian government first announced the mandatory Vaccine on Friday October 1st but the orders were not released officially until early the following Friday. Initially it appeared that all workers in Victoria were covered but on closer inspection it appeared that Australia Post corporate employees could potentially be exempted under the following section

Employers and workers (8) For the purpose of these directions: (a) employer in relation to a worker means: (i) the person who employs or engages the worker; or (ii) if the worker is self-employed—the worker. (b) worker means a person identified in Column 1 of Schedule 1, whether paid or unpaid, **but does not include: (i) a Commonwealth employee; or (ii) a person who works in connection with court proceedings.**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October we sought legal advice on whether Australia Post corporate employees were exempted due to **their** status as Commonwealth employees and it was confirmed that this was indeed the case.

That afternoon State Secretary Leroy Lazaro contacted Ms Susan Davies (EGM, People & Culture, Australia Post) about the issue and Ms Davies said she was unaware of any such exemption but would look into the issue and get back to the Union.

Our position was that Australia Post would be unable to stand workers down in a lawful manner from this Friday as employees were not covered by the Vaccine mandate from the state government.

We were prepared to escalate this matter if required to deal with this issue, but Ms Davies contacted Leroy late yesterday afternoon and confirmed that the legal advice we had received was correct and that she would be contacting all employees in Victoria to inform them that they were not required to have the Vaccine by Friday at this stage. Australia Post contractors, agency casuals and licensed Post offices are still covered by the Vaccine mandate.

Please speak to your Doctor or any health care professional about the Vaccine so you are able to make an informed choice.

Authorised  
Leroy Lazaro  
Branch Secretary

Communication Workers Union P&T Victorian Branch.