



**New South Wales Branch**  
PO Box 277  
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220  
Tel/Fax: 02 9579 2333  
Mob: 0412 880861  
Email: [hughmc@artionsw.com.au](mailto:hughmc@artionsw.com.au)  
ABN: 93149961882

# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

**Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 12: November 2016**

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## **Transport Industry – General Carriers Interim Contract Determination Update**

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An in-principle agreement has been reached between the TWU and a number of employer representatives, including ARTIO NSW, in relation to provisions related to rates in the Transport Industry – General Carriers Interim Contract Determination. Proposed clauses have been circulated by ARTIO NSW to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission and to all parties in these proceedings, including the Crown Solicitor's Office which is representing the NSW Government.

Negotiations have also taken place on proposed variations in current rates. Discussion on rate variations had not proceeded because it was hoped that a decision would have been reached by now on a new rates structure in the proposed new Determination. The need to vary rates was arrived at in recognition that rates have not been altered since 30 January 2015. Again, an in-principle agreement has been reached between the parties.

The Commission has asked parties to report back on whether they support these proposals at a hearing on 5 December or whether they take a different position.

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## **Transport Operators Safety Group/SafeWork NSW Issues Traffic Management Guide for Drivers**

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In a joint industry/government initiative, the Transport Operators Safety Group and SafeWork NSW have worked together to create a simple, one page guide for industry aimed at identifying traffic safety management issues at workplaces, including transport operator owned and operated sites as well as customer sites.

This guide aims to reduce the incidence of death or injury at sites, was launched at a Transport Operators Safety Group forum held at Prospect on 25 November. ARTIO NSW was represented at this launch. A copy of the guide will be sent to Members when available.

SafeWork NSW officials stressed this initiative was led by industry with industry representatives taking the lead in developing the guide. The role of the officials is to facilitate the development of workplace health and safety initiatives led by industry.

**Want further information on the Transport Operators Safety Group?** Contact Hugh McMaster, tel; 0412 880861, email, [hughmc@hmccconsulting.com.au](mailto:hughmc@hmccconsulting.com.au).

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## **Private Sector Wages Growth Remains at Record Lows**

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Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show wages growth for ordinary hours worked in trend terms in the private sector has remained unchanged for the year ending 30 September 2016.

The ABS's Wage Price Index for the year ending 30 September showed wage rates in the private sector grew by 1.9 per cent, equating to the annual increase recorded in the June 2016 quarter. This is the lowest annual rate of wages growth in the private sector since the commencement of this statistical series in 1997. The rate of increases in wages for the September 2016 quarter was 0.5 per cent, up slightly from the June 2016 quarter.

Wages grew by 2 per cent in original terms for ordinary hours worked in the transport, postal and warehousing sector over the year ending 30 September, the same rate of increase as for the year ending 30 June 2016. Wages grew by 0.6 per cent in the September 2016 quarter, compared to 0.4 per cent over the June quarter.

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## **Transport and Road Safety Ministers Commit to Tackling the Road Toll**

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### ***Transport and Infrastructure Council Communique, 3 November 2016***

*'The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Darren Chester MP, chaired an inaugural meeting of state and territory road safety ministers and their representatives today to discuss ways all jurisdictions can increase efforts to reduce the unacceptable increase in road deaths and injuries.*

*Ministers agreed that the recent increase in road deaths across Australia and the lack of progress in reducing serious injuries is unacceptable and discussed ways that all jurisdictions*

can work together to achieve the 30 per cent reductions in death and serious injuries all jurisdictions have committed to under the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (NRSS).

In addition to reconfirming their commitment to the NRSS and the NRSS Action Plan 2015-17, Ministers committed to pursue a range of new and enhanced actions. These actions include:

- greater emphasis on achieving road safety benefits from infrastructure investment programs at the Commonwealth, state and territory levels to reduce death and serious injury;
- urgently investigate measures that will address the disproportionate number of deaths and injuries occurring on regional and remote roads, where two-thirds of road deaths occurred in 2015;
- work more closely with local government to improve the effectiveness of road safety treatments on local roads;
- investigate how we can reduce the cost of drug testing to enable more testing to be undertaken;
- investigate the opportunity to support more cost effective testing of drug impaired drivers;
- work together to improve community awareness about the risks of death and injury from mobile phone use while driving; and
- increase sharing of data and analysis nationally, particularly regarding drug testing, regional casualties and mobile phone use including increased access to mobile phone data for accident investigation.

The Commonwealth also highlighted its commitment to lifting vehicle safety standards, particularly in relation to light commercial vehicles which have been shown to be disproportionately involved in fatal crashes.

Ministers discussed the need for safe speed limits to apply to road types that are known to present safety risks, particularly where infrastructure improvements are not feasible in the short term, and also discussed ways to improve the enforcement of road rules across Australia. Ministers noted the need to have a balanced discussion in the community on speed as well as speeding as contributors to road trauma.

Ministers agreed that the work on a national definition and measurement of serious injuries from road crashes was urgent, and strongly supported improved data collection through the current national data linkage project being managed through Austroads, the peak organisation of Australasian road transport and traffic agencies.

Ministers acknowledged the value in sharing problems, actions and research undertaken, which provides the opportunity to address road safety issues nationally and reduce deaths and serious injury. Ministers will continue these valuable discussions at future meetings.'

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## Outcomes from Transport and Infrastructure Council Meeting

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### ***Adapted from Transport and Infrastructure Council Communique, 4 November 2016***

The Transport and Infrastructure Council, comprising Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association met on 4 November.

Outcomes from the meeting included:

- The Council considered the National Road Safety Strategy Implementation Status Report for 2015 and noted the increase in road deaths across most jurisdictions, with the total in 2015 (1,205) denoting 55 more deaths than in 2014. Road deaths have continued to increase in

2016 (1,273 for the 12 months to September 2016) and serious injuries also appear to be increasing.

- The Council agreed to a number of actions to support the next phase of heavy vehicle road reform. The Australian Government will work with states and territories on the next steps to identify options for independent price regulation of heavy vehicle charges and to the trial of elements of heavy vehicle road reform.
- Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the introduction of a national registration scheme for heavy vehicles from 1 July 2018, and agreed that further work on the data and system requirements, costs and implementation arrangements be progressed by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, jurisdictions and industry representatives for further consideration by Council early in 2017.
- Ministers agreed to a range of initiatives designed to facilitate an accelerated introduction of cars and heavy vehicles with greater levels of automation on Australian roads over the next few years.

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## **Small Business Ombudsman Announces Payment Times Inquiry**

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The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell, has announced an inquiry into payment times and practices. According to ASBFEO, this inquiry will be conducted in collaboration with the Small Business Commissioners based in NSW, Victoria, SA and WA, as well as the Council of Small Business Australia and the Australian Institute of Credit Management.

Ms Carnell said the inquiry will assess anecdotal evidence that large businesses are taking longer to pay invoices. She said the inquiry will aim to establish an accurate picture of trends that have emerged in recent years surrounding commercial arrangements between large and small businesses as well as governments and small businesses.

Ms Carnell said a final report is expected in March, 2017.

The Terms of reference are available at [www.asbfeo.gov.au/inquiries](http://www.asbfeo.gov.au/inquiries). Small businesses who wish to have their say can do so at the above website or by telephoning 1300 650460.

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## **Almost 10 Percent of Workers Experience Bullying: Incidence in Transport and Storage Sector Well Above National Average**

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A report released this month by Safe Work Australia shows that 9.7 per cent of all Australian workers have been bullied at work. According to Safe Work Australia, these results are based on interviews with 4,200 workers with more than half of all bullying being undertaken by supervisors. Nearly half said they were subject to bullying at least once per week.

The report, *Bullying and Harassment in Australian Workplaces: Results from the Australian Workplace Barometer 2014-15*, also found that the prevalence of workplace bullying was on the rise. The report acknowledges this may be due a growing awareness and recognition of mental health issues, including bullying, in the workplace.

The report found that women were more likely to experience unwanted sexual advances, unfair treatment because of their gender and physical assault or threats. Men were more likely to experience swearing or yelling. A total of 7.4 per cent of respondents said they experienced negative comments related to race or ethnicity.

The survey found that 14.6 per cent of survey respondents in the transport and storage sector experienced bullying, a rate about 50 per cent above the workforce as a whole.

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## **NSW Agencies Remind Employers of Pitfalls of Workplace Functions**

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***Adapted from Joint NSW Fair Trading/SafeWork NSW Media Release, 11 November 2016***

SafeWork NSW Executive Director, Peter Dunphy and NSW Fair Trading Commissioner, Rod Stowe, have issued a joint media release reminding NSW businesses of pitfalls associated with workplace functions.

'End of year celebrations are an excellent opportunity for workers to socialise with their colleagues and celebrate the achievements of the past year,' Mr Dunphy said.

However, he also said that employers 'are still responsible for the health and safety of workers at these events'.

Mr Dunphy urged employers to remind staff that healthy, safe and respectful behaviours at work functions are an important step in ensuring the holiday season is celebrated safely. He said employers should set clear starting and finishing times and provide advice on transport options to get home safely. He also urged employers to encourage staff to look after their workmates.

Mr Stowe warned employers to be wary of 'dodgy operators' who request deposits for functions which are not delivered.

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## **Over 30,000 Telematics In-Vehicle Units Which Meet TCA Requirements Installed in Heavy Vehicles**

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***Adapted from Transport Certification Australia Media Release, 23 November 2016***

Intelligent Access Program Service Providers approved by Transport Certification Australia have advised that 30,480 Telematics In-Vehicle Units have been installed in heavy vehicles, according to TCA Chief Executive Officer, Chris Koniditsiotis. According to Mr Koniditsiotis, these IVUs are either currently able to meet the requirements of *IAP Functional and Technical Specification* as well as the *Telematics IVU Functional and Technical Specification* or are able to meet the requirements with some amendments.

He said another 1,500 units are fitted in light vehicles.

'There are a number of key features which distinguish these Telematics IVUs from others available in the marketplace, including the ability to meet functional and technical requirements relating to:

- Robustness
- Accuracy
- Reliability
- Tamper evidence
- Data storage
- Security'

Mr Koniditsiotis, said.

Mr Koniditsiotis said the industry continues to tell TCA that 'the IVU is a central piece of technology which supports a range of functions, such as vehicle performance monitoring, job management, messaging and document keeping of permits, gazettes and dispatch information'.

Mr Koniditsiotis said there has been a 22 per cent increase in Telematics units installed in vehicles in Australia since 2014.

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## **NHVR Releases Podcast and Fact Sheets on Chain of Responsibility Obligations**

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has released a podcast and six fact sheets on chain of responsibility obligations applicable to supply chain parties. Further information is available from [www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accrreditation-compliance/chain-of-responsibility/about-the-chain-of-responsibility](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accrreditation-compliance/chain-of-responsibility/about-the-chain-of-responsibility).

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## **NHVR Accreditation Unit to Close over Christmas/New Year**

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The National Heavy Vehicle regulator has advised that its Accreditation Unit will close from midday AEST on Friday, 23 December until close of business, Monday, 2 January 2017. The Unit will be back in full operation on Tuesday, 3 January.

The NHVR has advised that permit applications can still be lodged and will be processed on the basis of the date received.

The NHVR call centre will remain open throughout the Christmas/New Year period from 7am to 5pm AEST, except for public holidays.

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## **TWUSUPER Super News November 2016**

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### **Why we need your employees' correct contact details**

Providing accurate details for your employees – especially when making super contributions on their behalf for the first time – helps us to assist them as best as possible.

Here's a checklist for the **employee details we require to set up new members and provide them with the best ongoing advice:**

- **full name**
- **date of birth**
- **email address**
- **postal address**
- **preferred phone**
- **TFN.**

Providing the correct personal details for your employees helps the Fund comply with privacy standards should we need to contact members.

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### **Employees in different funds?**

Pay all your employees' super with one login and one payment, free of charge through SCH

Online\*. Call us on 1800 241 877 from 8am to 8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays to find out more.

Many employers have employees with TWUSUPER and Transuper accounts. When submitting data via a clearing house, be sure to include the Unique Super Identifiers (USI) as below:

- TWUSUPER: TWU0101AU
- Transuper: TWU0001AU

\* SCH Online is a financial product operated by The Superannuation Clearing House Pty Limited (Authorised Representative Number 290290) (TSCH), an authorised representative of Pacific Custodians Pty Limited (Australian Financial Services Licence Number 295142) (Pacific Custodians). The Trustee is not responsible for and does not accept liability for the products and services of SCH Online. You should use your own judgement before deciding to use SCH Online.

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### SG contributions due 28 January

Employers must pay Super Guarantee payments for eligible employees at least four times a year, and the ATO can apply the Super Guarantee Charge if payments are missed. SG contributions for the 1 October - 31 December quarter are due no later than 28 January.

If you are paying via TWUSUPER's clearing house – SCH Online – please allow 10 business days for contribution data and payments to reach other funds.

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## Economic and Industry Indicators

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Indicator/Source <sup>1</sup>	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	% Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2016	\$m	421,919	3.1
CPI (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2016	Per cent		1.3
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	As at 30 Nov 2016	Million	24.287	
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Sep 2016	\$m	25,223	2.8

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<sup>1</sup> ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics; RBA – Reserve Bank of Australia; AIP – Australian Institute of Petroleum; TIC – Truck Industry Council/'Prime Mover' latest issue.

Actual New Capital Expenditure (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2016	\$m	29,130	-15.2
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Jun 2016	\$m	153,830	-0.3
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Sep 2016	Number	19,817	2.1
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2016	\$m	81,783	-3.8
Employed persons (ABS)	Oct 2016	Million	11,947	0.9
Unemployed persons (ABS)	Oct 2016	Percentage	5.6	-0.4
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2016	Per cent		
All employees				2.0
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.0
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	Oct 2016	Number	98,997	1.5
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	9 months ending Sep 2016	Number	19,917	3.7
Vans (TIC)	9 months ending Sep 2016	Number	4,034	-3.3
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	As at 30 Nov 2016	Cents per litre	108.1	

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