

## ASU members left in the dark by THAI

**The ASU recently received correspondence from Thai Airways International ('known as THAI') stating that they don't intend to apply for the JobKeeper scheme and that they believe they're ineligible for the program.**

We reviewed the tax status of a number of overseas airlines, including THAI, to assess their eligibility under the government's Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Rules 2020.

The ASU believes that under the rules, an employer can be excluded from the JobKeeper scheme when they are 100% owned by a foreign government. In the case of THAI, the Company is about 51% owned by the Ministry of Finance - Thailand.

### Stand downs at THAI

ASU members confirmed for us that THAI flights to Australia were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and most staff were stood down from 1 April to 30 June 2020. Employees are stood down without pay and only limited access to leave accruals.

THAI told staff to seek alternative government assistance to get them through these unprecedented times but ASU members have said that not all employees are eligible for assistance.

#### ASU member:

*I have worked for Thai Airways for many years, paid taxes, never claimed a dollar from our Government and now I'm being told I am not able to apply for the JobSeeker assistance during the period of stand down due to my age...*

Very little has been communicated to staff since Stand Down started and this is very worrying for employees.

Employees are asking whether the current period of Stand Down up to 30 June 2020 is going to be extended

### Consultation with staff

We wrote to THAI about reconsidering their decision to apply for the JobKeeper scheme. A copy of our letter is attached to this Bulletin.

We called on THAI to assist staff during the difficult times ahead by applying for JobKeeper and consulting with employees about where the Company is headed.

### The ASU:

- Has sought an urgent meeting to urge THAI to review the decision and elect to participate in the JobKeeper scheme;
- Has sought clarity about some international media reports that THAI has planned to permanently reduce the flying capacity of its Australian operations; and,
- Reminded THAI of the obligation to consult with employees during Stand Down

Communicating with staff on a regular basis seems like the least THAI can do.

Through their agent the Company has rejected calls to meet with employees' legitimate workplace representatives. A copy of their letter is also attached to this Bulletin.

### It's time to stand together

It's a tough time for aviation workers, but if we stick together we can protect jobs and pay. Please pass this bulletin to your friends and co-workers at THAI. If you are not an ASU member, you can join at [www.asu.asn.au/ASUJOIN](http://www.asu.asn.au/ASUJOIN).

### Speak to your ASU organiser for more information:

Branch	Contact	Number
WA	Yvonne Klaa	0417 969 767
VIC PS	Imogen Sturni	0433 339 656
NSW USU	Thomas Russell	0419 761 320
QLD Together	Billy Colless	0419 736 886
SA/NT	Lesley Till	0497 555 875

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## UPCOMING COURSES – MAY

Our lives have changed this year, many of us are working from home, isolated from friends and family, but one thing hasn't changed...the **excellent webinars available** on the ASU Career Launchpad!

May is **packed full of relevant webinars**, go to <http://asucareerlaunchpad.tln.org.au/> for more information and register today so you don't miss out!

### COVID-19 FEATURED COURSES



#### COVID-19 JobKeeper Webinar for ASU Members

 **Friday 1 May** / DAY SESSION  
 CHRISTOPHER WATTS AND SUNIL KEMPPU

#### COVID-19 Working From Home Webinar for ASU Members

 **Wednesday 6 May** / DAY SESSION  
 ANGELA OLANDA

#### Ignite your IT Skills – Cyber Security and protecting your information online

 **Monday 11 May** / DAY SESSION  
 BEN PISANI

#### Launch into Leadership – Leading Change Management

 **Tuesday 12 May** / DAY SESSION  
 JENNY CARMUCIANO

#### Boost your Skills – How to deal with issues or complaints at work

 **Monday 25 May** / NIGHT SESSION  
 MONIQUE RICHARDSON

#### Launch into Leadership – Introduction to Strategic Planning

 **Thursday 28 May** / NIGHT SESSION  
 MARGUERITA PERILL



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