



Queensland Bus Industry Council Inc.

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Media Release

Call for courts to take assaults on bus drivers more seriously

The peak body representing Queensland's bus industry has called on courts to impose custodial sentences on those who assault bus drivers.

The call from the Queensland Bus Industry Council (QBIC) comes following the launch of the 'Get On Board' campaign in conjunction with the Transport Workers Union (TWU) earlier this year. The TWU is taking that campaign to the Sunshine Coast today.

QBIC Executive Director David Tape says bus drivers have a fundamental right to be protected in their workplace but the light penalties being handed out makes a mockery of this right.

"Professional drivers are the foundation of our industry and they overwhelmingly do an excellent job, serving the community in all weather and traffic conditions.

"They also must have the assurance that they are protected in their workplace just like any other occupation, and the justice system needs to make this a priority."

Mr Tape said that a safer workplace for drivers also means a safer environment for commuters.

"Sadly, too many drivers have reported verbal and physical abuse from people who have no respect for others.

"These offenders usually get a slap on the wrist, suspended sentences and good behaviour bonds, but nothing that sends the message that the courts take the role of a driver seriously.

He said drivers should be considered the same as police, ambulance and others who operate 24/7 dealing with public.

"It is not appropriate to walk into a court room and assault a magistrate; neither is it acceptable to do this to a bus driver in his or her workplace.

"Enough is enough, and I believe all Queenslanders would support this campaign."

David Tape is available for further comment.

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