

GEN 21/08
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5 July, 2021.

The Hon Greg Hunt, MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
PO Box 6022,
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600.
via email: minister.hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister,

The CEPU Communications Division (Communication Workers' Union) represents workers across Australia's postal and telecommunications industries.

Workers across our industries frequently attend for work at worksites great distances from where they reside. This is often true in our cities, due to housing affordability and employment availability.

This means these workers often travel in and out of, and work in public-facing roles within, areas that have been identified as COVID-19 hotspots by various governments.

They also have considerable contact with the general public in those areas – entering their homes or places of business to install and maintain telecommunications and broadband equipment and infrastructure, or to deliver essential postal items.

The nature of their work, and the way in which that work is undertaken, puts themselves, their families and members of the general public at a greater risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

Many CEPU members across the country in age groups currently ineligible to receive a vaccine continue to express their desire to be vaccinated as soon as possible and have sought our advocacy of such.

We are therefore requesting your amendment of the vaccination eligibility criteria for certain workers, who are currently aged between 16 and 39 years old, to include our members in the following specific roles:

- Postal delivery officers (posties) employed by, and postal delivery contractors who undertake delivery work on behalf of, Australia Post;
- Postal transport officers employed by Australia Post;
- Postal driver/sorters employed by Australia Post;
- Postal services officers and managers (Post office clerks) employed by Australia Post or undertaking duties within a Licensed Post Office; and
- Field communications technicians employed by, and subcontracting to, telecommunications providers and NBN Co who undertake on-site installation and maintenance work in private homes and businesses.

There would be few categories of workers that are required to have such diverse public interaction in the course of their duties in comparison to our members. By amending the vaccination eligibility criteria, regardless of age, to include these categories of workers would provide a greater layer of protection to the most vulnerable members of the communities CEPU members live in, and those that they serve.

We are available at any time, and at short notice, to discuss this proposal in greater detail and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,



Greg Rayner,
NATIONAL SECRETARY.



Shane Murphy,
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

cc: The Hon Mark Butler MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing
The Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure and the Arts
Ms Michelle Rowland MP, Shadow Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure and the Arts

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