

Media Release

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TMAA Disputes Misleading Salary Information in Recent Media Articles

The Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA) is calling out misleading information regarding traffic controller salaries circulating in recent media articles. Recent articles published by news agencies and websites - one featuring an alleged \$2,000 per week job requiring only one day of training, and another highlighting a Sydney traffic controller supposedly earning nearly \$3,000 weekly - grossly misrepresent the reality of the profession.

“These articles sensationalise outlier scenarios and do a disservice to the vast majority of hardworking and dedicated traffic controllers in Australia,” says Matthew Bereni, TMAA CEO. “Traffic control is an important and dangerous profession that plays a vital role in road safety. Our members undergo rigorous training. Most traffic controllers take immense pride in their work.”

The TMAA emphasizes that some traffic controllers may have the potential to earn high salaries due to penalty rates while working long hours on unionized sites during night shifts or public holidays for instance. However, these situations are in no way the norm. Seek.com.au, a reputable job search platform, indicates a more realistic average annual salary range of \$55,000 to \$75,000 for traffic control jobs across Australia.

The TMAA strongly condemns this pattern of publishing misleading articles about traffic controller salaries. These provocative pieces deliberately fail to mention the challenging and hazardous work environment that traffic controllers face, nor do they acknowledge the several deaths that have occurred over the past few years. These articles seem to appear in cycles, every two or three months, particularly during news slow periods when news websites resort to clickbait headlines.

The TMAA strongly discourages the spread of misinformation that portrays traffic controllers as underqualified or uninterested in their field. In reality, most controllers are passionate and competent professionals who prioritise the safety of fellow road workers, and road users.

About the Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA)

The Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA) is the national peak body for the Traffic Management industry in Australia. Our vision is to create a safe and zero harm traffic management industry across the country. We represent around 200,000 traffic management professionals and a \$2 billion industry nationwide.

TMAA's actions include promoting safety and innovation, advocating for industry interests, and providing services to members. Together, we work towards a safer and stronger traffic management industry in Australia. TMAA is a proud supporter of National Road Safety Week.

For more information contact TMAA at tmaa@tmaa.asn.au or on 1300 798 772.