



International Transport Workers' Federation

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Dear Gavin

Hunterlink Recovery Services – Inaugural Industry Engagement Dinner

I'm sorry I can't be there tonight due to international commitments as President of the International Transport Workers' Federation, however I wish to relay the ITF's deep appreciation for the important support work that Hunterlink does on behalf of seafarers and other maritime workers, not only for Australian working women and men and their families, but also for international seafarers visiting Australia.

In particular Hunterlink has distinguished itself in the area of early intervention through direct contact with workers seeking help and support, quite often under great stress and duress. Unfortunately the nature of the industry makes great demands on its employees and their families, long periods of time at sea often in male dominated work places without surety of long term employment and isolated from families and support groups can be a volatile cocktail of pressure that in some instances leaves workers extremely vulnerable.

The international industry in particular is renowned for even greater demands with crews of mixed national origin, standards that fall short of best practice and the nature of seafarers often being sourced from working communities in developing countries that are effectively isolated from their families in every sense of the word.

Hunterlink's work counselling seafarers also traumatised by serious injury and death in the workplace is widely respected and appreciated. The organisation in many ways is leading in an activist approach to give comprehensive and sustained counselling and support, not only for the families affected by the injury or death, but also those in the workplace exposed to the trauma and often tragedy of the event.

Stevedoring and port workers faced with the relentless shift work pattern and constant demands of an economy running 24 hours a day seven days a week also pose specific demands on those workers that in turn require special focus but mostly persistence in ensuring workers find the support at their most vulnerable times.

Again, Hunterlink and the work that it has progressed with other industry stakeholders, including trade unions, employers and users of maritime services has been groundbreaking and has delivered practical measurable and life changing support to thousands of workers practically and has been part of the more pervasive support that workforces and workplaces need in this demanding often dangerous industry.

So again on behalf of seafarers and maritime workers that in one way or another is connected to Australia, I would like to put my punctuation on the evening with thanks and deep appreciation, and renew the pledge that I have made on behalf of the seafarers and maritime workers to work with all the stakeholders in the room and those not there tonight to ensure that you and your team have the resources, tools and environment to continue the essential leadership you provide in this most important of worker and workplace support.

Yours sincerely



Paddy Crumlin
Chair Hunterlink Recovery Services
President ITF &
National Secretary MUA