



PTEU Media Release

Friday 30 July 2021

PTEU NSW statement on construction reopening

Statement from Theo Samartzopoulos, NSW State Secretary Plumbing Trades Employee's Union

The PTEU has acknowledged the New South Wales Government's announcement that construction will be partially reopened in Sydney under strict COVID-19 safety guidelines.

While this measure will provide relief to some, construction workers in the 8 locked down LGAs (Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown, Liverpool, Cumberland, Blacktown, Parramatta, Georges River and Campbelltown) continue to be unable to work. This will have a severe impact on the capacity of our industry to function.

The PTEU is fighting to speed up the reopening of the Sydney plumbing and fire protection industries. Discussions between Government and industry are ongoing, and we are strongly advocating for measures that will allow our industry to open safely as soon as possible.

Plumbing is an essential service, and urgent works can continue to be carried out in the 8 locked down LGAs. Businesses which are critical to the construction supply chain will be permitted to continue operations if they are located within an identified LGA.

Workers in the plumbing and fire protection industries understand how to manage the risk of COVID-19. Our workforce is well placed to operate safely during this outbreak, as we have proven throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of PTEU members is our highest priority, and we will fight to ensure that stringent industry safety guidelines are strictly enforced on all work sites.

This is a difficult and uncertain time for many of our members. It's okay to not be okay. Reaching out to someone to talk can help. Reach out to your mates, stay in touch and have each other's backs. We strongly encourage any PTEU members who are experiencing mental health concerns to reach out for support:

- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Men's Line Australia: 1300 789 978

We are committed to the safety of our workforce, and our priority is to protect the wellbeing and livelihoods of our members, their families and the broader community. We will continue to work with Government and continue to represent the needs of our whole industry.