

MEDIA RELEASE

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AIRPORT LINK TUNNELLERS 'DONATE A DAY' TO COLLEAGUE'S FAMILY

The Airport Link tunnelling team today announced that they have started a "donate a day" campaign to support the family of one of their colleagues who died in hospital on Saturday after he was seriously injured last Thursday.

Project Director, Gordon Ralph said the 40 year old employee was an incredibly well known and respected member of the tunnelling team, and his passing has affected a huge number of his colleagues.

Hundreds of members of the project tunnelling team who knew and worked with him have decided to donate a day's pay, or as much as they can afford, into the trust account set up by the project to provide ongoing support to their colleague's family.

"This is a great initiative by the tunnelling crew which demonstrates the close bond between the guys and the high regard they all have for their colleague," said Mr Ralph.

Other members of the project team have also indicated that they will be contributing to the trust to ensure that as much money as possible is raised for the family.

"The campaign has the full support of senior management who will also be joining in," he said.

In addition to personal contributions by the project team, Thiess John Holland is also contributing to the trust as well as providing all other support and assistance the family requires.

The entire project team will observe a minute's silence on Thursday morning in honour of their colleague.

Contrary to some reports, as a mark of respect, no construction work is occurring across the project today. Pre-shift briefings were held this morning to advise the workforce of the passing of their colleague, offer counselling support to those who may require it and detail the assistance being provided to his family. Following the provision of this information to the teams, all construction workers were sent home and the worksites remained shutdown.

Construction work will resume across the project tomorrow, commencing with pre-shift briefings advising the workforce of how they can contribute to the trust account and of the counselling and support services in place for all project employees at this difficult time.

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