



MEDIA STATEMENT

Released 18/04/2024

SECURITY WEAPON ENCOUNTERS

Following the Bondi Junction Westfield attack on 13/04/2024 and a brawl at Woodgrove shopping centre on 15/04/2024 where bladed weapons were used, VICSU has asked and received feedback from its members about weapon encounters in shopping centres.

WEAPON ENCOUNTERS INCREASING

Our members report that there has been an increase in weapon encounters over the past 12 months – These encounters have been made known to both their centre's managers and their security companies.

We have also been informed that additional protective equipment has been REFUSED by security companies due to “budget” reasons and REFUSED by clients, such as Westfield, for brand image reasons.

SAFETY

We do not accept either of these reasons, security workers and the public deserve to know that their safety is a priority in public spaces such as shopping centres. Front line security workers should be provided with stab and slash protective equipment and be allowed to wear them whenever possible.

In addition, where weapons are becoming prevalent, security workers who hold the relevant training qualifications should be allowed to carry batons and handcuffs.

We are appalled to hear that companies are choosing the bottom dollar over lives.

VICSU are working with their members to push these safety issues to the forefront of WorkSafe's awareness and will be pushing for additional equipment.

REFORMS

VICSU is urging that there be legislative reform and additional training to enable security workers to carry and use OC (“Pepper”) sprays in moments such as these.

- The Victorian Security Union