



MEDIA RELEASE

31 August 2021

Vale Alex Gallacher

The Executive Council and Secretariat of the VTA extends its deepest condolences to family, friends and colleagues of ALP Senator Alex Gallacher, who passed away after a two-year battle with lung cancer.

Alex was a transport man for all his life, as a heavy vehicle driver and labourer in his early working years, before moving into a number of trade union roles where he passionately represented his fellow transport workers.

He joined the Transport Workers Union in 1988 and became secretary of the South Australian and Northern Territory branch in 1996 where, as a director of industry fund TWUSUPER, Alex advocated for the financial interests of transport workers in retirement. As a Fund director, Alex was chair of the Investment Committee where he established protocols and culture which are still followed today.

Alex was elected to federal Parliament as an ALP Senator in 2010 where he was able to continue his passion for representing transport workers, and communities in need. In the Senate he was a staunch advocate for road safety, also chairing several parliamentary committees, including on foreign affairs, trade and economics.

Alex had the skill to solve complex problems by using common sense and the wisdom gained over many years of listening to people to people from all walks of life. He possessed an uncanny ability to separate fact from fiction.

The VTA was fortunate to work with Alex in his various transport industry representative roles, developing a respect for his genuine interest in advocating for the prosperity of the industry and its workers.

We extend our sincere sympathies to his wife Paola, his four adult children, and his many friends and colleagues.

Peter Anderson
CEO, VTA

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For further information please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284