

On Monday 22 September Channel 7 News broadcast an item claiming that high levels of drug and alcohol use by RailCorp staff was putting public safety at risk.

This report was based on documents provided to Channel 7 by RailCorp under Freedom of Information (FOI).

These documents showed that over the last two years only three train drivers reported positive breath analysis results on random alcohol tests (from 5190 tests) and six reported positive results of random testing for drugs (from 973 tests).

RailCorp's drug and alcohol testing regime – which is among the toughest in Australia – is producing results and has raised recognition among RailCorp workers of the company's clear position on our drug and alcohol free workplace.

RailCorp's policy is a strong deterrence and the consequences of positive tests widely known among the company's employees. RailCorp is confident that its workers understand what's expected of them.

Despite alarmist claims made in the media, the proportion of positive tests for alcohol has remained low and stable while the proportion of positive tests for drugs has in fact fallen considerably since 2005.