

Rail staff drug test figures misreported on radio

Radio news bulletins incorrectly reported today that 180 RailCorp staff had been caught under the influence of drugs while at work over the past three years.

This figure was derived from today's *Daily Telegraph* story that quoted ITSRR's 2008-09 Rail Industry Safety Report which said that a total of 180 positive results had been obtained from drug tests across all rail operators in NSW, not just RailCorp. RailCorp reported 101 positive results for random drug tests from July 2006 to June 2009.

RailCorp runs an extensive testing regime including random alcohol breath tests and urine testing for drugs and is taking strong action with over 30,000 tests conducted in the last financial year. All employees and contractors are subject to the random testing program at any time while they are on duty or signing on for duty. RailCorp's drug and alcohol testing regime exceeds ITSRR's requirement to test 25 per cent of employees each year. RailCorp's policy is a strong deterrence and the consequences of positive tests widely known among the company's employees.

Since RailCorp introduced random alcohol testing of employees in 2003 the frequency of positive test results has dropped by 50 per cent.

The frequency of positive drug test results has dropped by 30 per cent since random drug tests started in 2004.