



## IN BRIEF



### Worker disadvantage

The Federal Government is opposing compulsory redundancy pay for workers in companies with fewer than 15 employees. "Close to two million Australians will be disadvantaged if the Government has its way," says Peter Marshall.



### Access issue

The Rudd Government says that under its new IR laws, Union right of entry to investigate award breaches will be restricted by award coverage and representation rules. "We're concerned," says Peter Marshall. "We don't want to see vulnerable workers left without Union protection."



### De-construct the fear

Download the DVD expose of the ABCC campaign against building workers and their Unions. Check out Constructing Fear at <http://constructingfear.com.au>

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FIREFIGHTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY JOINED IN THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST WORKCHOICES

# Must do better!

The ACTU is telling the Kevin Rudd to fill the gaps in new industrial laws designed to replace WorkChoices

Australia's peak Union body is rolling out a six week television advertising campaign to pile the pressure on the Federal Government to restore workers' and Unions' workplace rights.

"It's crucial that the Labor Government delivers on ALP election promises to abolish WorkChoices," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "The Prime Minister must ensure that both the letter and the spirit of his commitments are enshrined in new national workplace laws."

The ACTU's focus is on collective bargaining and it says the Rudd Government must ensure working Australians have:

- > the right to bargain collectively,
- > protection from unfair dismissal,
- > the right to be represented by a union,
- > better pay and conditions, and
- > the backing of a strong industrial umpire.

The advertisements highlight the wins possible through collective bargaining, such as construction workers achieving better safety standards, and women gaining paid maternity leave.

"Unfortunately, there are holes in the Federal Government's proposed industrial legislation," says Peter Marshall. "So it's great to see the ACTU applying renewed pressure for genuine workplace rights for employees and Unions."

## RIGHTS ON SITE – RIGHT ON!

Construction workers and their Unions have been under sustained attack since the John Howard established the Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC) in 2005. However, the Rudd Labor Government says it won't move on this shadowy body until 2010. The ABCC has the power to pursue individual workers with threats of fines reaching \$22,000. Anyone who refuses to

cooperate fully faces up to six months in jail. More than 92 construction workers have been secretly interrogated. Constructions Unions are running a 'Rights on Site' campaign against the ABCC to pressure the Canberra politicians, with TV adverts, a petition and a website. You can help Australia's construction workers too. Go to <http://www.rightsonsite.org.au> to find out how.