

Workplace Relations Conference 2008

Building a Competitive Australia

30 - 31 October 2008
Atlantic, Central Pier
Docklands, Melbourne



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Workplace Relations Conference 2008

Building a Competitive Australia

Reform of the Australian Workplace Relations system now underway will fundamentally change the way businesses interact with their employees, unions and government institutions.

As the shape of the new 'Forward with Fairness' agenda becomes clear, The Australian Financial Review Workplace Relations Conference 2008 brings together those vitally concerned, to understand the new legislation, standards, rules and practices that will govern their future.

Key features include:

- Business needs and opportunities in the new workplace relations era
- Fair Work Australia and the future of industrial magistracy
- Transition for the building and construction sector
- Effective collective bargaining
- Towards modern awards
- The post AWA landscape
- Unions and the workplace
- Tailoring flexible work practices and working arrangements

Who should attend:

- HR Directors
- Policy makers and advisers
- Industrial Relations officers (Public & Private sectors)
- Commercial lawyers
- Workplace Relations consultants



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Thursday, 30 October – Day one

9:00	Registration
9:45	Welcome and opening address by Ben Potter, <i>Melbourne Bureau Chief, The Australian Financial Review</i>
10:00	 Ministerial keynote address Forward with Fairness – Labor’s plan for fair and productive Australian workplaces The Hon Julia Gillard MP, <i>Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment & Workplace Relations</i>
10:40	 Business issues keynote: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outlining business needs and forecasting opportunities in the new workplace relations era• Identifying changes and outcomes• Estimating an effective timeframe for implementation Peter Anderson, <i>Chief Executive Officer, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)</i>
11.10	Morning tea
11.30	Panel discussion - Challenges for business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expectations under the new ‘Forward with Fairness’ legislation for Australian businesses Paul Davies, <i>Chief Advisor Employee Relations People and Organisation Support, Rio Tinto</i> David Gregory, <i>Director Industrial Relations, Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce & Industry</i> Evolving workplace institutions
12.10	Panel discussion - Institutions, enforcement and future roles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Work Australia and the future of industrial magistracy Nicholas Wilson, <i>The Australian Workplace Ombudsman</i> Barbara Bennett, <i>Director, Workplace Authority</i>
12.40	Lunch break Transition for the building and construction sector
13:30	Proposed new specialist division for FWA – points of issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues for the building and construction sector Murray Rutledge Wilcox, <i>Former Federal Court Judge</i>
14:00	The role of the ABCC to 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ABCC role and functions• Ensuring more lawful and productive industry• Understanding the compulsory examination power and its use as a last resort John Lloyd, <i>Commissioner, Australian Building & Construction Commission (ABCC)</i> Transition for the minerals sector
14:30	Implication for ‘Forward with Fairness’ for employers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The transition from AWAs Christopher Platt, <i>Director Workplace Policy, Metals and Mines Association</i>

15:00 Afternoon tea

New Legal Frameworks

15:20 Employer responses to the new legislation

- Exploring areas of risk and opportunity for employers
- Identifying changes and outcomes
- Estimating an effective timeframe for implementation

Anthony Wood, *Partner, Freehills*

Optimising the industrial relations system

15:50 Building a new national workplace relations system

- Transitional legislation, award modernisation and National Employment Standards

Stephen Smith, *National Workplace Relations Director, Australian Industry Group*

16:50 Conference summary

17:00 - 18:00 Networking drinks

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Friday, 31 October - Day two

8:30 Welcoming from the chairperson

8:45 Keynote address:
ACTU perspective

- What 'Forward with Fairness' means for workers



Sharan Burrow, *President*
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

The future of collective bargaining

9:15 Panel discussion - Effective collective bargaining

- How the changes affect business and unions
- Bargain 'in good faith'
- The powers of Fair Work Australia to impose outcomes

Dave Noonan, *National Secretary – Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)*
Kristine Irwin, *IR Consultant, National Australia Bank (NAB)*
Val Gostencnik, *Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth*

Towards modern awards

9:55 Panel discussion - Focus on award modernisation

- The content and impact of modern awards and priority tasks
- The impact of the award flexibility clause

Julius Roe, *National President, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU)*
The Hon Graeme Watson, *Vice President, Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC)*

10:25 Morning tea

The post AWA landscape

10:45 Case study: Workplace Relations strategy in a post AWA environment

Chris Gardner, *Partner, Employee Relations, Freehills (Principal IR advisor to Telstra)*

11:15 Case study: Individual bargaining versus collective bargaining

A Legal Overview

11:45 Panel discussion - Rights at work: Redefining labour standards

- National Employment Standards
- Award modernisation – Broadening the Agenda
- Unfair dismissals

Jennie Mansfield, *Partner, Blake Dawson*

Rosemary Roche, *Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth*

Kate Jenkins, *Partner, Freehills*

12:45 Lunch break

Small and medium enterprises

13:30 Fair dismissal code for SMEs

- Understanding processes, compliance and exemptions

13:45 Workplace dispute resolution

Dr. Angela O'Brien, President, Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA)

Unions and workplace

14:00 Panel discussion - Union right of entry and legal industrial action

- Employers rights
- Regulating union entry to workplace

Paul Howes, *National Secretary, Australian Workers Union*

Richard Calver, *National Director, Master Builders Association*

Productive workplace practices

14:40 Panel discussion - Flexible work practices and working arrangements

- Identifying barriers to workplace flexibility
- Creating an effective workplace

Lisa Heap, *Executive Director, Australian Institute of Employment Rights*

Peter Wilson, *President, Australian Human Resources Institute (AHRI)*

14:50 Conference close

15:00 Afternoon tea

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Registration Form



Registrations close Wednesday 29 October, 2008 unless sold out. For multiple attendees, please photocopy this form to register or visit the website www.afr.com/events

5 Easy Ways to Register

Online	www.afr.com/events	E-mail	fbmevents@fairfaxmedia.com.au
Mail	Fairfax Business Media – Education Registrations GPO BOX 55, Melbourne VIC 3001	Phone	1800 032 577
		Fax	(03) 9603 3898

Registration details

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Position Title:	Organisation:	
Postal Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> work	<input type="checkbox"/> home
Suburb:		
Postcode:	State:	Country:
Work phone: ()	Mobile:	Fax: ()
Email:		
Dietary or special requirements:		
Where did you hear about this conference?		

Price (inc. GST) 2 day Conference. Registration includes morning tea, afternoon tea and networking drinks.

If registering online, please use the following code: IAM

Standard Rate \$ 2200.00

Payment options Tax invoice/Registration form. Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd. ABN 33 003 357 720.

Yes, please reserve me ____ ticket(s) to The Australian Financial Review Workplace Relations Conference 2008

TOTAL COST \$ _____

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