

Wednesday, 4 August 2010

Time for Tony Abbott to tell Australians the truth. Where is his IR policy?

Tony Abbott must begin answering some basic questions about his plans for Australian workplaces, say unions.

The Liberal Party's failure to still release an industrial relations policy halfway into the election campaign is a re-run of the deception of the Howard Government over WorkChoices, says the ACTU.

ACTU Secretary Jeff Lawrence said the record of Mr Abbott's three-year period as Workplace Relations Minister in the Howard Government exposes the fact he laid the foundations for WorkChoices.

"Tony Abbott must tell the Australian public the truth about his role as a Minister in cutting unfair dismissal protection, forcing workers onto individual contracts and opposing increases to minimum wages," Mr Lawrence said.

"And he must not be let off the hook from explaining what he really has in store for Australian workers and workplaces.

"All we have are a series of glib slogans and contradictory statements from Tony Abbott that show he cannot be trusted on industrial relations.

"It is an appalling abuse of the Australian public's right to know who and what they are voting for that he still hasn't released a detailed industrial relations policy.

"Working Australians will remember that WorkChoices was brought in without public scrutiny or approval by a Liberal Government of which Mr Abbott was a senior member.

"The 2010 election is a re-run of the Liberal Party's dishonesty on workplace relations.

The ACTU today has written to Mr Abbott demanding answers to questions on five key issues affecting Australian workers (letter attached).

Mr Lawrence said Mr Abbott must tell the Australian public the truth about his plans for unfair dismissal, minimum employment standards, redundancy pay, and individual contracts.

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