National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC's decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

...see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

...see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision
The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?
There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy
The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid
The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC's decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour
2007: $5-$10 per week
2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia's minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends
National Minimum Wage Decision 2009
Australian Fair Pay Commission

The AFPC decision

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has taken the unusual step of recommending no rise in federal minimum wages.

Who is affected?

There are about 1.5 million workers who are dependent on federal and state awards for their wages.

About 1.3 million of these award-dependent workers are directly impacted by the AFPC’s decision. They include approximately 100,000 workers who are paid the Federal Minimum Wage (less than one per cent of the workforce). Workers affected include cleaners, retail and hospitality staff, child care workers, farm labourers, and some factory and production workers.

Low paid workers are more likely to be women, part-time or casual, employed in the private sector in non-managerial positions in lower-skilled occupations.

The AFPC’s decision denies these workers the only pay rise they would receive this year.

Impact on the economy

The decision runs the risk of causing wage deflation and battering consumer confidence.

It will have a negative impact on demand and could lead to a longer economic downturn.

There is no credible evidence that moderate, regular and predictable increases in minimum wages harm unemployment or inflation.

Impact on the low paid

The ACTU submission to the AFPC highlighted that increases in rents, health care and other costs have contributed to financial stress among low income families.

The most recent Consumer Price Index has risen 2.5% to the March quarter. In the year to March, the biggest prices rises were medicines (13%), rent (1.7%), secondary education fees (7.6%), vegetables (+6%), and electricity (+3.6%).

…see over/
The ACTU claim

The ACTU sought a $21 per week increase in the Federal Minimum Wage and in other minimum award wages.

This would have raised the FMW from $543.78 per week to $564.78 per week, only 55 cents or $14.86 per hour.

In its submission to the Fair Pay Commission, the ACTU argued a reduction in real minimum wages or pay freeze would be both unfair and counter-productive when the Government wants to stimulate domestic demand to support the economy.

Past minimum wage decisions by the AFPC

Last year’s minimum wage decision of an extra $21.66 a week, or 57 cents an hour, resulted in real wage reductions for more than a million pay scale reliant workers.

The real wage effect of the three AFPC decisions since 2006 has been that 92% of pay scale reliant workers have suffered a decline in their real wages since June 2005 under the system of setting minimum wages introduced by the Howard Government.

2008: $21.66 per week/57 cents an hour

2007: $5-$10 per week

2006: $27.36 per week/72 cents an hour, awarded for 18 months

Low pay compared with executive salary trends

The average pay for top CEOs has risen astronomically and is now 63 times average weekly earnings.

The modest pay rise put by the ACTU compares with the total package of the CEOs of the top 300 companies rising to $3 million in 2008, despite the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index falling 16.9%.

Recent state decisions

Western Australia’s minimum wage will increase by $12.30, (2.2%) $569.70 from October 1 this year.

No other states/territories have handed down their decisions to date.

ends