

Industrial Relations Legislation: Issues and Facts

Quick Fact:

Since the collapse of the attempted “second wave” of industrial legislation in 1999, Peter Reith and Tony Abbott, his successor since 2001, have introduced a large number of bills seeking to amend the Act, with almost no success.

Issues For Congress

- Congress 2000 carried a comprehensive resolution detailing how industrial relations legislation should be amended to meet appropriate standards of award protection and collective bargaining rights.
- The proposed policy for Congress 2003 slightly amends that policy, with the issue of employee consultation and democratic participation the only major addition.
- The ACTU is currently running the case for improved redundancy pay, and is seeking to vary awards so in cases of disputes about redundancy, employers are required to consult and provide information in line with the Termination of Employment Convention.

ACTU Draft Policy

A legislative framework should:

- provide for worker and union rights in relation to collective bargaining which, as a minimum, meet the standards set by international law
- ensure that all workers have access to fair and relevant award wages and conditions
- enable compulsory conciliation and arbitration of all industrial disputes
- encourage collective bargaining
- should require employers to bargain in good faith
- The ACTU and unions support the extension of workplace consultation
- Legislation should require that awards and agreements include provisions giving employees the right to be consulted on a regular and comprehensive basis

More information on Industrial Relations Legislation is available on the ACTU Website

- a comprehensive Congress background paper and
- the full draft policy

www.actu.asn.au/congress2003

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