

Tuesday 21 November, 2017

LNP have allowed the complete breakdown of law

Statement from ACTU President Ged Kearney:

The revelations of systemic wage theft published today by academics Laurie Berg and Bassina Farbenblum show that the Turnbull Government is unwilling to stop employers breaking the law to protect working people.

The Prime Minister and his Minister Michaelia Cash are more concerned with attacking working people than they are with ensuring that all Australians have their basic rights protected.

As a result, wage growth is the lowest on record, big businesses profits are booming, and a third of big businesses don't pay any tax.

Minister Cash, who is more than happy to smear working people in the press and mislead the parliament, couldn't even take the time to comment to the press this morning on a story which showed a quarter of international students and a third of backpackers are being paid half the legal wage.

Every worker in Australia is entitled to basic rights, but under this government that promise has been broken for thousands of workers.

Now, one in ten workers is on a temporary visa. When systematic underpayment and exploitation is the norm, it increases unemployment, and drags down wages across the economy.

Australian workers need a government who will defend basic rights and ensure that they are treated fairly, not cut their pay and attack unions.

ENDS

Media contact: ACTU Media 03 9664 7315 or Peter Green: 0400 764 200
<http://www.actu.org.au/actu-media/media-releases>