



Wednesday 29 March 2006

For immediate release

MEDIA ALERT

Media representatives are invited to attend the following forum:

What:	Low Pay in the Australian Service Sector
When:	Wednesday 5 April 2006 10:00am – 12.00pm
Where:	Sem. Rms 1-2, Storey Hall, RMIT University, 344 Swanston St, Melbourne
Key speakers	<i>Experiences of low paid workers and their households</i> Prof. Barbara Pocock, Centre for Work and Life, University of South Australia <i>New statistics on low pay</i> Dr John Buchanan, ACIRRT, University of Sydney

It appears likely that the Federal Government's WorkChoices Act will lead to increases in the number of low paid Australian workers. Yet the social implications of such a development have not been adequately researched or debated.

*Will the expansion of low pay enlarge the number of working poor in Australia?
What impacts would this have on households and communities?
Is the WorkChoices Act a positive development for Australian society as a whole?*

This forum will provide new statistics on low pay in Australia and present evidence from workers about what life on low wages is like for them and their families and how it affects their communities.

Background information on this research can be obtained at: <http://www.lowpayproject.com.au>

Media contact: Michelle Low (03) 9483 1371 or 0413 948 535 (Brotherhood of St Laurence)