

You are the first commentator who understands the core issue. I used to do similar deals in competition with Shorten in the mushroom industry in particular. We had to do AWAs which required a lot more work and we had to charge for.

Shorten and the AWU were able to short cut the process because they had a special licence to change the Awards basically anyway they wanted to. Accordingly they charged a monopoly rent to the employers for that service.

You have nailed the core issue Des. It is not that Shorten did wrong. He actually did sensible and his protestations that what he did was actually good for workers is right. They traded penalty rates for continuity of employment which is far more valuable to workers.

The problem was that there was not a competitive market to provide that service. For instance I could have done it for half of what Shorten was able to charge if I too had the same special "registered Union" licence. Accordingly Shorten could ask for extra payments and get them from the employers.

Keep up the good work Des and by all means give me a ring. Shorten was our competitor in the mushroom industry at the time and I remember the facts.

Cheers

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