

All of Fair Work should be reformed

It is certainly important that Turnbull is now seeking to reinstate the powers of the former Australian Building and Construction Commission and to legislate so that unions are as accountable as companies. But Turnbull has for six months as Prime Minister said little new about union lawlessness and the reform of workplace relations needs to extend well beyond the construction industry.

This lack of a policy is despite Turnbull's indication some months ago that it would publish its reaction to the report by Justice Heydon which showed that the Fair Work arrangements are not conducive to encouraging employment and productivity. Yet on 7.30 last night Turnbull dodged the question of a broader reform except to say that "workplace relations ... is very much in our thinking, but we will be – whatever policies we take to the election, we'll lay out well in advance".

In reality it is difficult to imagine a more bureaucratic, more interventionist approach to employer-employee relations and one that is far from fair to individual businesses.

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