



7 April, 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Fair Work Amendment Bill (Protecting Vulnerable Workers) Bill 2017

I write to express support for the submission of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (**ACTU**) to the inquiry in to the Fair Work Amendment Bill (Protecting Vulnerable Workers) Bill 2017 (**the Bill**).

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) deplores the increasingly prevalent practices in Australian workplaces that amount to exploitation. We support laws that prevent exploitation and punish the individuals and companies that exploit workers. That many of the companies involved in or aware of calculated exploitation are names common to us demonstrates how common place these exploitative "business models" really are in the economy.

Many of the measures in the Bill are positive steps towards addressing the exploitation of vulnerable workers – but more needs to be done. Laws that impose obligations on supply chain participants, so that illegal exploitative practices cannot be swept under the rug or ignored by major corporations, are necessary tools in the fight against the exploitation of vulnerable workers.

In particular, the AMWU strongly supports changes to the laws that prevent employers from outsourcing their labour requirements to labour hire companies or contractors in order to cut the wages of employees and side step the Agreements for the pay and conditions of those employees. This open practice of corporate avoidance of established Agreements, by outsourcing to third parties, is driving down wages by locking out employees from being able to negotiate for their fair share of the value they create for the business.

No worker should be subject to exploitation in Australia. We must also make sure that all workers, and in particular, vulnerable visa holders, have the necessary legal protection from those that seek to exploit them.

Yours sincerely

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NATIONAL SECRETARY

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