



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

30 June 2015

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to submit Unions NSW concerns regarding the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2014 [No. 2]* that is currently before the Senate.

Please find below a brief overview of the Unions NSW opposition to the proposed amendments to the Bill. For further detail on our position, I refer you to the Australian Council of Trade Unions submission.

The proposed amendments seek to alter disclosure arrangements, training exemptions, penalties, criminal liability, the investigative framework and the investigator. Unions NSW does not believe any evidence has been presented to justify amendments to these areas of the Act.

The Bill's explanatory memorandum argues amendments are required to protect unions from any repeat of the corrupt behaviour that occurred in the Health Services Union. It is also argued these amendments will address issues around the late lodgement of financial statements by registered organisations. Unions NSW believes that the 2012 amendments to the Act addressed these two issues of concern and that the Government's proposed changes to the Bill are superfluous.

Unions NSW supports the *Registered Organisations Act* in its current form as we believe it complements the objectives of unions to operate in a democratic, transparent and efficient manner. Unions NSW believes the current disclosure requirements are comprehensive, enforceable and effective in ensuring transparency and accountability. The proposed amendments to the investigative framework have the potential to constrain the effective and efficient operation of unions without any regulatory benefit.

Unions NSW believes this Bill is more about the Government's anti-worker agenda rather than good governance.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Unions NSW position further, I can be contacted at mmorey@unionsnsw.org.au or on (02) 9881 5999.

Regards,

Mark Morey
Assistant Secretary