

7 May 2013



Senate Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: ewr.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Senate Inquiry into the conditions of employment of state public sector employees and the adequacy of protection of their rights at work as compared with other employees

In relation to the above Inquiry, the Together union provided to the Committee two submissions dealing with the terms of reference of that Inquiry. Those submissions are available on the Committee's webpage as submission number 22.

We wish to advise the Committee members that since making those submissions the Queensland state government have introduced the *Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2013*. The Bill can be found at

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bills/54PDF/2013/IndustRelTranspAB13.pdf>

and the explanatory notes at

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bills/54PDF/2013/IndustRelTranspAB13E.pdf>.

This Bill adopts many of the industrial features of earlier legislation enacted by the Queensland state government, and in particular the committee should be aware that the practices as outlined in Together's earlier submission in regard to overriding settled industrial instruments continues with this Bill. The drafting of the Bill also gives rise to the potential for breaches of the freedom of association Convention (ratified by the Australian government on the 28 February 1973).

In particular Article 3 provides that "workers' and employers' organisations shall have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules, to elect their representatives in full freedom, to organise their administration and activities and to formulate their programmes. The public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof." The Bill directly impedes this tenet.

Together draws this recent legislative activity to your attention as further affirmation of the direction, means and method that is being pursued by the Queensland state government.

Yours faithfully

Alex Scott
Secretary