



FairWear Campaign SA

PO Box 8066 Station Arcade
Adelaide SA 5000

23 December 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT N 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I write in support of the Fairwear Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry) Bill 2011.

The South Australian branch of Fairwear has worked with Fairwear representatives and with Asian Women at Work and others, on issues to support and assist workers engaged as outworkers in the sewing industries for around 20 years. In South Australia Fairwear worked consistently within the SA Outworkers Group to support the introduction of a State Code of Practice for Outworkers.

Fairwear SA is very keen to maintain and extend hard won protections for outworkers and as such welcomes moves to provide protections in the Fair Work Amendment.

We do have a couple of concerns with the proposed Bill namely;

- **Recovery of money from the principal contractor**– we are concerned that an unfair onus may rest with the outworker to recover money from the principal contractor. We support an amendment to this section to ensure that the Bill provides an effective remedy..
- **Deeming provisions** – Fairwear SA is committed to all outworkers having protection and seeks to ensure that this be clarified within the proposed amendment or the development of the related Code of Practice.
- **Right of entry** – this right must take into account the unique nature of outwork and the premises where sewing outwork is undertaken. Outworkers are often isolated and vulnerable and right of entry provisions must be tailored and appropriate to ensure the strongest level of protection can be implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the concerns of outworkers in South Australia to this Senate Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Dann
Convenor
Fairwear SA