

2002-2003

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Workplace Relations Amendment  
(Protecting the Low Paid) Bill 2003**

**No.     , 2003**

*(Employment and Workplace Relations)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, and for related purposes**



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1     **A Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations***  
2     ***Act 1996, and for related purposes***

3     The Parliament of Australia enacts:

4     **1 Short title**

5                     This Act may be cited as the *Workplace Relations Amendment*  
6                     *(Protecting the Low Paid) Act 2003*.

7     **2 Commencement**

8                     This Act commences on the day after it receives the Royal Assent.

9     **3 Schedule(s)**

10                    Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or  
11                    repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule

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concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect according to its terms.

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2 **Schedule 1—Amendment of the Workplace**  
3 **Relations Act 1996**

4 **Part 1—Amendments**

5 **1 At the end of subparagraph 3(d)(ii)**

6 Add “, primarily to address the needs of the low paid”.

7 **2 At the end of paragraph 88A(d)**

8 Add:

9 ; and (iii) recognises that the primary role of awards is to address  
10 the needs of the low paid.

11 **3 Paragraph 88B(2)(c)**

12 Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

13 (c) when adjusting the safety net:

- 14 (i) as a primary consideration, the needs of the low paid,  
15 including their need for employment; and  
16 (ii) the employment prospects of the unemployed; and  
17 (iii) the capacity of employers to meet increased labour  
18 costs.

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2 **Part 2—Application**

3 **4 Application of Part 1 amendments**

4 (1) The amendments made by Part 1 of this Schedule apply to proceedings  
5 in relation to an industrial dispute that is notified to the Commission:

6 (a) on or before the commencing day—if the Commission has  
7 not finished dealing with the dispute before that day; and

8 (b) after the commencing day.

9 (2) In this item:

10 *commencing day* means the day this Act commences.