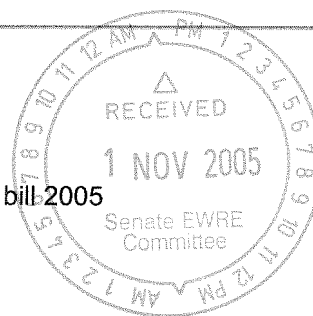


---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 November 2005 8:04 PM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the Workplace Relations Amendment (Workchoices) bill 2005



Dear Sir/Madam

This correspondence represents my submission to the Inquiry into the Workplace Relations Amendment (Workchoices) Bill 2005, scheduled to occur later this month.

This bill, if implemented, stands to undermine many of the fundamental principles upon which the public service was built and continues to operate, including merit-based employment decisions, the right of employees to consult and have input on matters affecting their workplace, and the right of employees to have a act collectively.

The bill as currently drafted, would appear to grossly adjust the balance of power between employers and employees even more in favour of employers. Employees do not have the knowledge nor resources at their disposal that employers that would allow them to negotiate employment conditions on an equal footing. Employees would therefore be at a severe disadvantage if they were forced to negotiate certified agreements directly with employers, without the assistance and expertise of unions. The proposition of a 'take it or leave it' AWA as a condition of employment goes completely against the principle of merit-based selection processes and makes a misnomer of the Bill, which appears to offer no realistic or reasonable choices to the employee. It is not reasonable, fair or in the spirit of a 'fair go' to be denied employment purely on the basis that you refuse to sign an AWA that you have had no input into, have no opportunity to amend, and takes away many important, fundamental work conditions such as the right to sick leave and pay and the right to union representation. Employees in a modern, democratic Australia should not be forced to make a choice between sub-standard employment or no employment at all.

I wish to register my strong opposition to the Workplace Relations Amendment (Workchoices) Bill 2005 as it currently stands and urge the government to revise the Bill so as to maintain a fair and flexible workplace and provide real choices for working Australians.

Yours sincerely