

CEPU - COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SA/NT BRANCH

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C.E.P.U. Circular December, 2005

A Great Time For Union Members To Save Money

This is an expensive time of the year for most workers and families. So it is an excellent time to look at the savings our range of services can deliver to you as a union member. Our products and services can be obtained via our website www.memberconnect.com.au.

Virtual Communities for Computers & Technology

Check out the latest specials in the new Virtual Communities Spring/Summer 2005 catalogue. You can pick up great Christmas Presents along with your new computer package for all the family. For more information contact Virtual on 1300 131 789, or visit www.virtualcommunities.com.au.

Union Shopper

Union Shopper is a discount shopping service that harnesses the collective purchasing power of members on:-

- ⇒ Electrical and white goods
- ⇒ New and used vehicles
- ⇒ Travel and accommodation
- ⇒ Theme park tickets and much, much, more.

Simply decide what you want and call Union Shopper with your purchase details on 1300 368 117 or visit www.unionshop.org.au.

New Car For Christmas ?

Looking to purchase a new car over the Christmas break? Why not visit www.discountnewcars.com.au/unions to obtain an online discount exclusive to union members.

With all prices and on road costs fully disclosed union members can save thousands. Just visit the website or call 1800 466 666.

Members Equity Bank

Members Equity Bank is the bank for union members with services including:

- ⇒ Super Members Home Loans
- ⇒ ME Personal Loan
- ⇒ ME Mastercard
- ⇒ InterestME Savings Account

This Christmas you might want to consider the ME Mastercard with a current interest rate of 10.20% p.a*. Why not call Members Equity on 13 15 63 or visit www.membersequity.com.au to save.

*interest rate as at 30/11/06 and subject to change. Applications subject to credit approval. Conditions, Fees and chares apply. Members Equity Pty Ltd ABN 56 070 887 679.

Delivery

At this busy time of year the provision of a second meal break may apply.

The award provisions 21.5—General Conditions of Employments provide that members must be given a meal break after 5 hours of duty or in agreement between the member and management this can be extended to six.

If after recommencing duty a member continues for another 5 hours a second half hour break must be taken.

If any member is denied this second break please contact the Branch Office on 8232 5166.

Annual Leave Loading—2006 Maximum Payment

The maximum amount payable as annual leave loading under the provisions of Clause 25.9.1(a) of the Australia Post General Conditions of Employment Award 1999.

The Statistician's August 2005 figure for average weekly total earnings for all males is **\$963.70**. The figure is the maximum payment in respect of the 17 1/2% annual loading for recreation leave that accrues on 1 January 2006.

The salary levels as 1 January 2006 which attract the maximum leave loading for leave which has that accrual date are:

- ⇒ where 4 weeks leave accrues - \$ 71819
- ⇒ where 5 weeks leave accrues - \$ 57455
- ⇒ where 6 weeks leave accrues - \$ 47879

Howard Government's IR Dream Now A Living Nightmare For Working Families

The final passage of the Government's amended WorkChoices laws through Parliament will make John Howard's industrial relations dream a living nightmare for Australian workers and their families says the ACTU.

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Commenting on the final passage of the amended IR legislation through the House of Representatives today, ACTU President Sharan Burrow said:

"The clear goal of the Government's new workplace law is to boost the profits of big business at the expense of the basic rights and living standards of working Australians. These are unjust and unwarranted new laws that will hurt the most vulnerable workers and reduce the job security and living standards of all Australian workers and their families.

The Government has made 337 amendments to try and paper over the flaws in the 'WorkChoices' legislation since it was released to the public just a month ago. But not one of these amendments alters the fact that the laws will remove even the most basic workplace rights and protections for millions of Australian workers.

For more than 100 years Australia has had an industrial relations system that has given working people a share of the benefits of economic prosperity when times are good and ensured that there are decent protections for people when times get tough.

This is the system the Federal Government's new workplace laws will destroy.

All ten million working Australians will be badly affected by the new laws, which mean:

- ⇒ *Any worker at any time can be put onto an AWA individual contract that cuts take home pay and removes conditions like overtime, penalty rates, meal breaks, public holiday penalties, weekend rates and redundancy pay.*
- ⇒ *Award conditions will not be protected. AWAs that reduce existing entitlements can be offered to any current employees at any time.*
- ⇒ *All workers in businesses with less than 100 staff will lose their protection from unfair dismissal. "unlawful" termination laws will provide no protection for workers from the most common forms or unfair sacking.*
- ⇒ *The current yearly review of minimum wages by the Industrial Relations Commission will be scrapped and the Prime Minister has refused to guarantee that the real value of minimum wages will be maintained.*
- ⇒ *The access of union representatives to workplaces will be severely restricted and in some cases banned. No Australian worker will have any legally enforceable right to bargain collectively with an employer. Even if 100% of employees in a workplace are union members and want a collective agreement an employer will have the legal power to refuse to even discuss a collective agreement and insist every worker signs an AWA individual contract.*

These laws will remove basic rights for working people, cut the take home pay of workers, reduce their job security and hurt families. The Australian people can rest assured that unions will campaign for as long and as hard as it takes to overturn these laws and replace them with decent employment rights in this country," said Ms Burrow".

Send Your MP A Message

Christmas is finally upon us—a time for family and friends, presents and cards, and (hopefully) some rest and relaxation. Unfortunately this year the Government's Christmas present to Australians is the worst piece of industrial law the country has ever seen. And, like those unwanted gifts, we need to send "WorkChoices" back and get something better. So, as you write your Christmas cards, don't forget your local politician. Send your MP a Christmas message now. You can find your electorate and how your MP voted on our website. If your MP is Liberal/National they voted for "WorkChoices". If ALP or independent, they voted against. Send your MP a Christmas message now.

Www.rightsatwork.com.au/campaigns/christmasmessage Many thanks, Sharan Burrow, Greg Combet, & The Rights at Work Campaign Team.

WorkChoices Receives Royal Assent

The Howard Govt's WorkChoices legislation received Royal assent on 14 December. The following provisions of the ACT are now operative: + The Fair Pay Commission is established with its wage setting function, operations, procedures, the appointment and remuneration of its chair and commissioners + School based Apprenticeships and Traineeships + Redundancy: removes redundancy pay as an allowable award matter for companies employing less than 15 employees. The main parts of the Bill are expected to come into force about March 2006.

Christmas Closure

Members please note that this Office will be closed from **12 Noon on Friday 23rd December, 2005, til 8 am on Tuesday 3rd January, 2006.**

However, members can contact any Official on the following mobile numbers:-

Australia Post:

Noel Paul	0418 820 019
Graham Lorrain	0419 870 285

Telstra

John Lee	0418 807 683
Gerry Kandelaars	0418 848 872

On behalf of the CEPU Branch Committee of Management, Officials and Office staff, we wish you and your family a very safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Regards,

Noel Paul
Branch Secretary.

21/12/2005.