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Our Ref:

**Submission to the Finance and Administration Committee  
on the Industrial Relations Bill 2016**

This submission seeks clarification of **Clause 778** in Chapter 12, Part 11, Subdivision 5, Reporting Requirements of the Industrial Relations Bill 2016. It is suggested that such clarification might simply be achieved by amendment to Clause 781.

The background to the problem lies in Clause 778 (1) which relates to the giving of financial reports to members. The Clause states:..."A designated officer of the reporting unit must give to its members, free of charge, 1 of the following –".

The word "give" is not defined in the Bill but in common usage one might suppose it to mean "supply", "provide to" or "transfer possession of". The meaning of "give" however, is somewhat narrowed in meaning by the application of Clause 781 which provides for compliance with Clause 778 if the report referred to is published in the organisation's journal.

There is an inference that unless a copy is actually sent to each member or else published in a journal sent to each member then compliance with the Section may not be achieved. Whilst we do not believe the Section is intended to be so narrowly interpreted, this submission seeks to amend Clause 781 to include publication of the report on the organisation's website. Publication on a website ensures it is freely available to all members and interested parties.

We suggest that giving each member a physical copy (by mail) or publication in the journal is prohibitively expensive and we believe the Government is supportive of the efficient use of member funds. Publication on an organisation's website is a simple and effective alternative.

To amend Clause 781 we believe the addition of the words..."or on the organisation's website"; be appended to Clause 781(1)(a) and (b) and Clause 781(2)(a) and (b).

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