
From: Dr David Stewart
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2015 4:57 PM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: My submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I write to make a submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

I urge the committee to recommend passage of this bill without delay to ensure that the rights of public servants and local government workers are restored to them.

The Newman LNP government was elected in 2012 having made clear promises to respect rights at work and the collective bargaining framework. The government broke these commitments and removed protections for job security as well as many other basic rights, amending legislation often late at night with no warning. Thousands of workers and their families in Queensland suffered as a result of the removal of these protections, which directly caused the loss of over 20,000 jobs in the last three years.

The right to organise collectively to achieve better working rights and conditions is a basic human right. The Newman government undemocratically curtailed this right and as a result lost the 2015 Queensland election. At the election a majority of Queenslanders supported parties and candidates who advocated a restoration of these basic rights for workers and for a restoration of certainty in our state and local government services.

Furthermore, I urge the Committee to consider the legislation pertaining to High-Income Senior Employees (Chapter 6A - IR Act) and make a recommendation to repeal this legislation.

I am only one of the many hundred doctors who were willing to resign en masse rather than allow the destruction of a health service we have devoted our lives to, and we could not stand by and allow this to happen to this and the other public services we knew would be radically curtailed in the aftermath.

We and many Queenslanders know this to be the correct course of action for a stronger future.

Please respect the voice of Queenslanders and the rights of workers and vote to restore fairness by supporting this bill.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Stewart