

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for making an allowance for my submission in response to the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No.2) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

The current proposed changes to the Queensland Health Workers in this bill is both alarming and insulting. It undermines everything workers and unions fought for all those years ago and will send us right back into the dark ages.

My concerns are these:

1. Individual contracts and the gradual eradication of permanency will only cause conflict and dissension due to the lack of transparency. Individual negotiated contracts only empower those with the gift of the gab and negotiation skills not the truly skilled worker. Where is the job security in this? More over where is the guarantee of skilled medical professionals and standards? Individually negotiated contracts will only foster suspicion and hostility between fellow employees, "I am more qualified than so and so but I get paid less."
2. Shortening Bargaining time frames greatly shifts power into the employers favour. This opens an avenue to create greater disparity once again between socioeconomic classes by forcing people to capitulate to a lesser agreement than they otherwise would have, given time to negotiate fairly. This serves only one party, the employer and profit margins.
3. Further limitations on the taking of industrial action once again serve only the employer and not the employee. This only suppresses every employee's right to be heard and directly allows the employer to oppress the voice of the workforce, lawfully.
4. The Public Service Commission to approve agreements in the future. Paint this one how you will but this is nothing more than a direct and belligerent personal attack on every single works rights pure and simple. The deliberate removal of the QIRC which is the checks and balances system only opens the door to corruption and corporate greed under the guise of faster resolutions to industrial disputes.

This is but a short list of the concerns not only I but many of my fellow employees have. We need to ask ourselves, where is it that we want this country go? What quality of life do we want all citizens of this nation to have? How much power do we want the private sector to have?

Sincerely

Maja Peric