




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Federal Election, Labor Policies

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.42 pm): I would like to refer to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that states that the Liberal candidate for the seat of Paterson in New South Wales said that men were more likely to actively seek business skills and responsibilities to boost their pay packets. I have to ask: how out of touch is the federal coalition? All I can say is that, if you are a female, either in the workforce or not, the worst thing for you is for the coalition to be re-elected on 18 May.

I will now deal with how federal Labor, when elected, will change the rules to make being employed and being a wage earner fairer. The federal opposition has announced that it will help workers receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. In summary, the commitments by Bill Shorten and federal Labor are as follows: more secure jobs, fair pay rises and fairness for working women. I will now deal with how this will be achieved and why it is important that a Shorten Labor government be elected on 18 May.

Labor will stop forced casual work—the same job, the same pay for labour hire workers. It will introduce a national labour hire licensing scheme. It will stop employers forcing people to get ABNs. There will be local jobs for local workers and more secure jobs from trade agreements. There will be an end to the uncapped temporary working visa scheme. There will be skills for the future. The award system will be repaired. Penalty rates will be restored and protected. Zombie Work Choices agreements will be terminated. There will be multi-employer bargaining. Employers will be stopped from gaming the system. Employers will also be stopped from avoiding their obligations. There will be big increases in penalties for wage theft. Superannuation theft will be stopped. There will be better rules to stop sexual harassment at work. There will be paid 10 days family and domestic violence leave for all. There will be new equal pay laws. There will be gender equality specialists at the Fair Work Commission. The ABCC and the building code will be abolished. The Registered Organisations Commission will be abolished.

In the short time that I have left, I will now deal with some of the reforms that I have outlined. The first step is stopping workers being forced into casual work. Employers will no longer be able to call someone a casual if their job is not genuinely casual. Too many employers have been converting permanent jobs into casual jobs. Federal Labor has committed to stopping that.