2007 IMPORTANT

JUSTICE KIRBY ARCHIVES

F.w.F.

A UNIFORM NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM

In Government, Labor has been at the forefront of economic and industrial relations reform.

The creation of a uniform national industrial relations system for the private sector is a critical economic reform for our nation's future.

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Only a Rudd Labor Government can work with the States to deliver a uniform national industrial relations system for Australia's economic future.

A Rudd Labor Government will rely upon all of the Constitutional powers available to it in government to legislate national industrial relations laws. Labor will work cooperatively with the States to achieve national industrial relations laws for the private sector. This will be achieved either by State Governments referring powers for private sector industrial relations or other forms of cooperation and harmonisation.

Under the Howard Government's industrial relations laws, many businesses in the private sector are caught in a legal mess, uncertain which laws apply to them.

Federal Labor intends to give sole traders, partnerships and companies a uniform industrial relations system – a uniform system for Australia's private sector.

Businesses, large and small, are increasingly operating across State borders. Under Labor, whether employees are working in Bundaberg, Bright or Bunbury the same system of laws will apply.

This will end the costs and confusion for business of dealing with separate industrial relations systems.

Unlike the Howard Government, Labor believes that the goals of driving future economic prosperity and ensuring fairness at work are not mutually exclusive.

A Rudd Labor Government will deliver national industrial relations laws which are fair to working people, flexible for business and which promote productivity and economic growth for the future economic prosperity of our nation.

Labor's plan will reduce the complexity and confusion of the current system and create certainty for employers and employees about the basis of their rights and obligations at work.

Current arrangements for the public sector and local government can continue with many of these workers regulated by State industrial relations jurisdictions.

State Governments, working with their employees, will be free to determine the appropriate approach to regulating the industrial relations arrangements of their own employees and local government employees.

A Rudd Labor Government will also ensure appropriate transitional arrangements are put in place so that those currently covered by State industrial relations systems will not be disadvantaged as a result of the creation of Labor's national industrial relations system.

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NON-INCORP. ONLY.
AS STATED IN THE LABOR
CONFERENCE PLATFORM 2007

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