



# WA Timber+Furnishing News

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**Paul Ferreira  
Branch  
Secretary  
and  
National  
Organiser**

## CFMEU blasts Summit's idea for migrant workers

**The CFMEU is unimpressed by one idea that came out of the weekend's 2020 Summit - for greater labour mobility to enable the "free movement" of workers from the Asia-Pacific region into Australia.**

The initial report from the Summit suggested Asia-Pacific workers should be admitted to Australia on conditions "underpinned by Australian workplace standards".

CFMEU national secretary John Sutton said "labour mobility is part of the big business flexibility agenda". He said it was time for migrant workers to be given full citizenship rights.

"What our country needs is a return to the traditional and successful nation building concepts of training our own

youth together with permanent migration," he said.

"Labour market mobility means contingent workers who can be moved around at the discretion of employers. Stripped to its essentials it is about a two-track system where locals get higher paid jobs and overseas guest workers get the low-paid jobs," he said.

John Sutton was speaking from India where he is attending the Southern Initiative on Globalisation and Trade Union Rights convention in his capacity as president of an international trade union of building and woodworkers, said Australian unions would fight for migrant workers' rights.

"Our union won't be lying down or

be conned by glossy terms like 'labour mobility'. I don't think it is a short-term issue. I think this will be a long-term campaign," he said.

Sutton said the weekend's suggestion combined with Australia's negotiations with China for a Free Trade Agreement raised many concerns.

The New Zealand FTA with China includes provision for 1,000 skilled and 1,000 unskilled Chinese workers to be admitted to NZ.

"It is disturbing but not surprising that this is the direction the proponents of these Free Trade Agreements have been headed.

"China is agitating hard for access for abundant Chinese labour to be allowed into the country," he said.

CFMEU Forestry & Furnishing Division WA Branch

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# WorkChoices on the way out but Construction Industry workers still live in fear

**Despite the Rudd Government's swift moves to get rid of Work-Choices, one of the worst aspects of Howard's laws continues.**

The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) has sweeping powers. Workers and their representatives can be fined and jailed; union meetings can be secretly recorded and legal representation can be denied.

No other body in Australia has those powers. No other workers, apart

from those in the construction industry, are faced with this sort of undemocratic and heavy handed assault on human rights .

**The ABCC has the power to compel people to attend interrogations under the threat of jail . Workers have no right to silence, cannot refuse to go and cannot speak publicly about the what is discussed in the interrogation.**

The CFMEU FFPD is standing side by side with the CFMEU Construction

and General Division in fighting the profoundly undemocratic powers of the ABCC.

Construction and General National Secretary, Dave Noonan summed up the situation by saying;

"We find it amazing that the Rudd Labor Government, elected to restore Australian rights at work, should care so little about the rights of 900,000 construction workers in this country."

"If you can't stand up and say what you feel and believe, then you're a slave. And I ain't no slave."

- Charlie Isaacs, Building Worker



## Union pressure mounts on Labor to abolish ABCC

**Pressure is mounting from the union movement for Labor to make good on its resolution at last year's national conference to abolish the ABCC , with a raft of protests in recent weeks.**

The CFMEU has vowed to keep pushing Labor to get rid of the ABCC, and unions staged a rally outside the ABCC's Sydney offices.

Vic building unions, including the construction & furnishing divisions of the CFMEU as well as the ETU, AMWU, AWU and CEPU are spearheading a push for a national strategy opposing the watchdog. Workforce understands a meeting of union representatives in Melbourne late last month decided to pursue an alliance with branches of the unions in other states, with a meeting provisionally scheduled for May 6 in Qld to form a national campaign committee.

Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow WR Minister Julie Bishop told the AMMA conference on April 3 in a "disturbing development" it looked like Labor was backing away from its support for the ABCC. "Any watering down of the commission's powers will be a retrograde step but it will happen," she said.

In a statement to Workforce yesterday, a spokesperson for Deputy PM & WR Minister Julia Gillard said: "As previously announced, the ABCC will be retained with its current powers, personnel, codes and resources until it transfers to a specialist compliance division within Fair Work Australia on Jan 31, 2010. This commitment was made prior to the election and it will be honoured.

The govt is currently consulting extensively on the details of its substantive legislation, which will create Fair Work Australia and welcomes input from all stakeholders. This is of course in complete contrast to the previously Liberal Govt which failed to consult on its extreme, complex and unfair Work Choices laws."

Asked by Workforce at a Sydney press conference this afternoon if the construction industry watchdog's powers beyond 2010 would be detailed in the substantive legislation, Gillard said: "Beyond 31 January, 2010, the functions undertaken by the ABCC" will be the subject of consultation. ABC Commissioner John Lloyd has a five-year contract expiring on Sept 28, 2010.



# Super Funds Merger

**TISS, FIRST Super and PPWSF (the pulp and paper workers' fund) are merging on 1 July 2008.**

**The name of the new fund is FIRST Super.** This name was chosen because it represents what the new fund is about – putting members first.

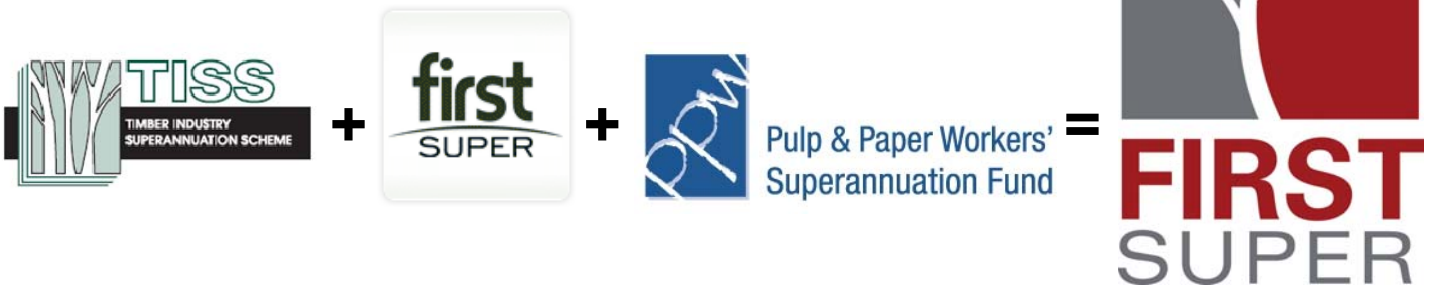
All three funds are industry funds where profits go to members. This won't change. And by coming together as one fund, most members will get more.

The new fund aims to:

- Take the best of each fund
- Improve benefits and member services
- Keep costs low over the long term

**What the merger means for TISS members**

- ◇ **More options from 1 July 2008** as the new fund takes the best of each of the three funds



- ◇ **TISS is the successor fund.** This means members and assets will move from the two other funds into TISS to form the new fund
- ◇ **New name and logo** to reflect the change in membership. The name of the fund will change to FIRST Super and there will be a new logo.
- ◇ **Same dedicated customer service** from an expanded team. Additional staff will join the existing TISS member service team to administer the new fund.

Information about the merger has already been sent to TISS members with the next Member Merger Update outlining further details on the new fund benefits.

**If you have any questions or want more details, call TISS on 1300 360 988 or visit**

[www.myfundmerger.com.au](http://www.myfundmerger.com.au)

## Free Will Service for Union Members

### ANOTHER IMPORTANT BENEFIT OF CFMEU MEMBERSHIP

Many members never quite seem to get around to drawing up a proper will. The union is now able to provide a free service through renowned union legal firm Slater & Gordon.

Normally \$200.00, the will service is free to CFMEU members.

All of us want to do the right thing by our loved ones during our lifetimes and after our death. Preparing a will is the best way to ensure that once we die our family members are properly provided for.

For a referral to Slater and Gordon to access the Free Will service please phone, fax or write to us at:

**CFMEU FFPD WA Branch**  
**PO Box 169 Kwinana WA 6966**  
**Tel: (08) 9419 4718**  
**Fax: (08) 9439 4528**



## Special Offer for CFMEU FFPD Members

Sign up 5 New Members and get a \$50.00 Coles/Myer Gift Card

Members are reminded that the WA Branch Executive has endorsed a proposal from Branch Secretary Paul Ferreira to reward financial members of the Union for signing up new members.

Any financial member of the WA Branch who signs up 5 new members will receive a \$50.00 gift voucher once

the membership applications have been processed for the new members that you have recruited to the Union.

**The gift card can be used at the following stores:** Myer, Target, Baby Target, Target Country, Kmart, Kmart Garden Supercentres, Officeworks, Coles Supermarkets, BI-LO, Liquorland, Vintage Cellars, 1st Choice Liquor and Theo's Liquor.



# How will Labor's New IR System work?

## Labor's Transition to Forward with Fairness Bill passed

*"..the first handful of dirt in the grave in which we are burying WorkChoices"*

Julia Gillard Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



### The New IR System

Labor's first industrial relations bill has been passed by Parliament, signalling the end of the Howard Government's extreme and unfair WorkChoices.

The transition bill ends the use of AWAs and creates temporary contracts for some workers until Labor's new system starts in 2010. The Bill also directs the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) to begin modernising awards.

The Bill is the first part of two stage process to get rid of WorkChoices and create fair and consistent national workplace relations system. The Transitional Bill has come into effect and the Substantive Bill will come into operation on 1 January 2010. A draft of the Substantive Bill will be released later this year.

### What the Transitional Bill does

- Prevents the making of new AWAs
- Establishes transitional individual agreements while award modernisation takes place

- Introduces a genuine No Disadvantage Test for new collective agreements
- Provides a decent fallback for employees where their agreement is terminated
- Superannuation clauses in the award have had their life extended and will no longer expire on 30 June 2008

### The 10 National Employment Standards

1. Hours of work
2. Parental leave
3. Flexible work for parents
4. Annual leave
5. Personal, carer's and compassionate leave
6. Community service leave
7. Public holidays
8. Provision of information in the workplace
9. Termination of employment and redundancy
10. Long service leave

### What the Substantive Bill will do

- Provide for genuine freedom of association and the right to be represented
- Promotion of collective bargaining, information and consultation at the workplace
- Equal pay and no discrimination
- Good faith bargaining, including the right to take industrial action
- Unfair dismissal rights
- The establishment of Fair Work Australia
- 'The ongoing maintenance of the safety net
- Enforcement and compliance

