



legal compliance newsletter

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NATIONAL SURVEY: 86.8% OPPOSE ABOLISHING AWA's

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), has released results of a national survey showing that 86.8% of Australian employers oppose the abolition of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWA's) and 92.2% support legal rights for employers and employees to individually bargain over wages and conditions of employment.

The ACCI coordinated a survey of 1,337 employers about workplace reform. These employers employ 290,000 Australians. Responses covered businesses of all sizes, all industries, each state and territory, metropolitan and regional Australia, and workplaces with and without union members.

The survey also showed that:

- 92.2% of employers support the right to make individual agreements that vary employment rules in awards, provided minimum standards are complied with;
- 94.9% of employers support the right to choose whether to make collective or individual agreements with staff;
- 85% of employers support the right to negotiate an individual agreement even where a union agreement applies; and
- 83.2% of employers support the right to make individual agreements that differ from collective agreements.

AWA's were introduced into Australian workplaces in 1996 and more than one million AWA's have been made over that time.

Peter Hendy, Chief Executive of ACCI, stated that AWA's provide higher pay and better employment conditions than awards - and Union opposition to AWA's is ideologically based, as AWA's do not require the involvement of unions.

Need more information or assistance?

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