

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION



To: The Hon Justice Guidice
President
Australian Industrial Relations Commission
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Melbourne Vic 3000

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From: CHRIS HARNATH
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ADVISOR

Date: 25 February 2003

Dear President,

Re: Safety Net Review 2003 – MPMSAA Response to ACTU Minimum Wages Case Submission 2003.

The Association's position on the ACTU's Minimum Wages Case 2003 claim and written submission regarding increases in wages, is one of general opposition.

The Association has consistently expressed a view in recent such cases that moderation is required in reaching any decision to generally increase wage rates. This is not reflected by the ACTU claims.

The outcome of the 2002 Safety Net Review Decision (Print PR 002002) was a relatively large increase in wages. In the current economic climate which calls for caution given both domestic and international considerations, a similar increase to that of the 2002 Safety Net Review Decision would be immoderate. The Association is also concerned that any increase in minimum rates is sustainable in the current uncertain economic climate.

The Association is aware of the grounds on which the Australian Industry Group (AIG) bases their submissions for a moderate increase in wages. Those grounds cover well the issues and the Association therefore supports the AIG submission generally for the adjustment to minimum rates being:

- A moderate minimum rate adjustment of a flat \$11 per week.
- Commensurate adjustments in wages for apprentices.
- Any increase to be subject to absorption.
- Any increase to be no earlier than the 12 months after the previous Safety Net Review increase in respective awards.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Harnath
Industrial Relations Advisor

IF THIS FACSIMILE IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE PLEASE CONTACT
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