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Workers' welfare hit

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WORKERS sacked for alleged misconduct face eight weeks without government welfare assistance, the federal Opposition says.

Labor's **employment** spokeswoman, **Penny Wong**, criticised the impact under the Government's welfare and **industrial** relations changes that came into effect yesterday.

``If a worker is dismissed for misconduct, even if that is unfair, they face the prospect of eight weeks without any support from the Howard Government," Senator Wong said.

``This is a result of the collision between the welfare changes and the extreme **industrial** relations laws."

Senator Wong said the changes would leave workers high and dry.

``It's an example of how out of touch this Government is, that it believes Australian families can sustain themselves for eight weeks without any income support whatsoever."

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