

[ [Previous](#) ] [ [Major News - ACTU Mentions](#) ] [ [Next](#) ]

**Monday 26 June 2006**

---

# The West Australian

## Anti-AWA message bussed to bosses

Author: MARTIN PHILIP

Publication: The West Australian (14, Mon 26 Jun 2006)

Edition: COUNTRY

Keywords: **ACTU (2), Sharan (1), Burrow (1)**

---

UnionsWA will name and shame businesses which undercut workers' wages and conditions by staging a "scumbag employer tour" of Perth this week.

Perth comedian Don Smith will lead up to 80 union officials and members through central Perth on a double-decker bus on Friday, stopping off at businesses which use new Federal workplace laws to scrap basic employee conditions and entitlements.

Organisations including Woodside, Qantas and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be targeted, along with union-busting builder Gerry Hanssen's construction site.

**ACTU** president **Sharan Burrow** will be on the tour, on which comedian Alex Manfrin will mimic the Prime Minister using his alter-ego John How-Odd.

Launching the **ACTU's** WA week of action in Fremantle yesterday, UnionsWA secretary Dave Robinson told a rally the new workplace laws gave bosses increased power over workers, making them vulnerable to exploitation.

"John Howard's laws are about shifting the balance of power in such an extreme way towards employers and particularly towards big business at the expense of working people, their children who are going to come into the workforce and the community generally," he said.

"We know already that many employers have been all too prepared to make use of Howard's industrial laws. We know about Spotlight, where

workers were told, 'You will get a new contract, an AWA, and we will take your penalties, we'll take your overtime, we'll take your leave loading, we'll take everything we can - and the return to you for that is an additional two cents an hour'."

Mr Robinson said figures from the Federal Government's Office of the Employment Advocate revealed almost two-thirds of new AWAs cut penalty rates and overtime, and 40 per cent stripped away public holiday leave.

All Australian workers should have a minimum level of annual and sick leave, protection from unfair dismissal, a fair minimum wage and penalty rates as part of their workplace entitlements, he said.

WA Attorney-General and member for Fremantle Jim McGinty said voter dissatisfaction with the new Federal workplace laws was fuelling a voter backlash with the potential to unseat the Howard Government.

"I think that as more and more cases of injustice come forward, it's going to take its toll on the Howard Government," Mr McGinty said. "What we've now got is a realisation that these laws are going to hit living standards for an awful lot of people."

Chamber of Commerce and Industry spokesman Bruce Williams dismissed claims AWAs were unpopular, saying thousands of WA workers had willingly signed up to them.

Headline: Anti-AWA message bussed to bosses

Author: MARTIN PHILIP

Edition: COUNTRY

[ [Previous](#) ] [ [Major News - ACTU Mentions](#) ] [ [Next](#) ]

Copyright © The West Australian