

Hiding the fine print

JOHN Howard rejects Kim Beazley's view that the controversial IR reforms cost the conservatives victory in South Australia and Tasmania.

But while the two argued, Workplace Relations Minister Kevin Andrews gave a clue at the weekend as to just how nervous the Government is about public reaction.

His timing — while the golden glitter of the Commonwealth Games distracted the public — was questionable.

It was either foolish ignorance or a deliberately sneaky attempt to minimise the impact.

Whichever, it was a continuance of the Government's notoriously bad handling of its attempts to win public support for these necessary reforms.

Mishandling of the release of the fine print has ensured that the content will be subjected to even greater scrutiny than would have been the case had the release been up-front.

Mr Andrews says the legislation is fair and good for the economy.

But workers have yet to be convinced it is good for them.

Manipulating the release will do nothing to allay their doubts.