



NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham

National Employment Standards

Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, today welcomed the Commonwealth Government's release of the 10 new National Employment Standards, which are part of Labor's new modern industrial relations system.

"The new employment standards ensure that all employees are protected by a strong safety net of fair minimum conditions that cannot be stripped away.

"The new national employment standards apply to all employees in the Federal industrial relations system regardless of industry, occupation or income", Ms Bird said.

The new National Employment Standards include:

- Maximum weekly hours of work
- Request for flexible working arrangements
- Parental leave and related entitlements
- Annual leave
- Personal/carer's leave and compassionate leave
- Community services leave
- Long service leave
- Public holidays
- Notice of termination and redundancy pay
- Fair Work Information Statement.

"These 10 fair minimum conditions are contained in 50 pages of legislation.

"WorkChoices protected only five conditions in over 150 pages of legislation.

"The new national employment standards were developed in consultation with business, industry and unions and follow the consideration of 129 submissions on exposure draft legislation released on February 14, 2008", she said.

June 16, 2008
