



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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**LABOR IR TASKFORCE TO EXPOSE
THE STORIES THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO HIDE**

Member of the Labor Caucus Industrial Relations Taskforce and Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today called for community feedback on the impact of the Howard Government's industrial relations changes.

Labor's Caucus IR Taskforce held its first meeting today, vowing to listen to people's stories, advocate on these issues, and hold the Government to account.

"This is a vital role, given that the Government allowed a Senate Committee only five days to hear evidence on the IR legislation last year," Ms Grierson said.

"We will be listening to those people that the Howard Government has put most at risk with its extreme IR legislation - including part-time and casual workers, women, young people and people with disabilities."

"We will also be consulting with community groups, welfare organisations, unions and churches to assess the impact on all workers and their families. Labor shares their concerns that the IR changes will adversely impact on people's work-life balance and undermine their relationships."

"As the Howard Government's extreme changes begin their long slow burn, eating into the pay, conditions and rights of people in the workforce, Labor will be listening to people's stories, advocating on their issues, and holding the Government to account."

"All Australian workers deserve a fair go. If they are not getting it, we want to hear about it and force the Government to do something about it."

Anyone wishing to bring their story to the attention of the Taskforce should contact the office of Sharon Grierson MP on 4926 1555 or visit www.sharongrierson.com.au.

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