



Sharon Grierson MP
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WORKFORCE TOMORROW - WHAT ABOUT WORKCHOICES TODAY?

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews, will tomorrow host a Breakfast With The Bosses in Newcastle to flog his Government's WorkChoices package.

Meanwhile, Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson and Labor's Industrial Relations Taskforce will be in regional Australia consulting with low-paid workers, small businesses, and community groups to assess the real impact of WorkChoices on the ground.

"This is another example of arrogance from this Government," Ms Grierson said today.

"It won't listen to the real concerns of workers, but it will happily spend more millions sending the Minister around the nation to glad-hand their bosses."

Tomorrow's Breakfast With The Bosses is ostensibly to discuss the Government's *Workforce Tomorrow* report, which deals with Australia's ageing population and projected shortfall of skilled workers.

"However, since its release in November last year, the Government has done nothing but use *Workforce Tomorrow* as a justification for its Workchoices package."

"It's a shame because the report actually raises serious questions. But, the Government's got the wrong answer."

"WorkChoices removes unfair dismissal protection, drives down wages, cuts back penalty rates, and puts weekends, holidays and family life at threat. How this will help combat the ageing population and skill shortage is anyone's guess."

"The Government should be making real investments in training our young people and increasing job security rather than bringing in skilled migrants and creating unrest and fear in the workplace."

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