

What's on in your state

WorkChoices seminar series

The WorkChoices seminar series is an opportunity to learn about the new WorkChoices system, including detailed information about agreement making. The seminars are presented by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Office of Employment Advocate.

[WorkChoices seminars in June 2006](#)

More information

The WorkChoices website provides comprehensive information on the new national workplace relations reforms, including information products you can download. You can also order information products, including in a choice of 13 foreign languages, by phoning the WorkChoices Infoline on 1300 363 264.

Assistance and advice on making and lodging agreements is offered by the Office of the Employment Advocate. You can call the OEA on 1300 366 632.

The Workplace Advisory Service provides employers and employees with information and advice about WorkChoices. To find out more, call 1300 363 264.

Final round of free WorkChoices seminars coming to a town near you!

Employees and employers can learn more about the new WorkChoices system at the final round of free WorkChoices seminars held throughout Australia this June. WorkChoices has introduced a lot of changes to the workplace relations system and the seminars are a good opportunity to find out how it will apply to your workplace.

A total of 350 seminars will be held by the end of June, catering to a wide range of groups including employees and employers, small business, industry associations, industrial relations specialists and government agencies. More than 6000 people have attended the seminars since they started in April.

Seminar feedback has indicated that 90 per cent of attendees have an improved understanding of WorkChoices and 97 per cent of attendees are comfortable with how to find additional WorkChoices assistance, after attending a seminar.

Seminars run jointly by the OEA and DEWR are free of charge and run for approximately two and a half hours. Each attendee receives a WorkChoices information kit containing a range of fact sheets and other resources for the workplace.

Bookings can be made for June seminars through the WorkChoices website: www.workchoices.gov.au/events, or if you do not have internet access by calling 1300 762 975.



How your rights will be protected under WorkChoices

The new WorkChoices legislation offers protections for all workers, including special provisions for young people, people from a non-English speaking or indigenous background, women and outworkers.

Under WorkChoices, the Office of Workplace Services (OWS) will ensure that the rights and obligations of workers and employers under the Workplace Relations Act 1996 are understood and enforced fairly. Contact the OWS by calling 1300 363 264.

The Office of Employment Advocate (OEA) provides free support and information to employees and employers on agreement making taking into account the needs of all employees. Call the OEA on 1300 366 632.

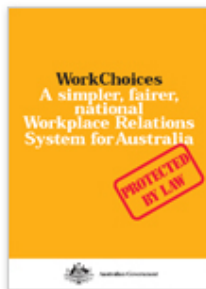
WorkChoices publications

You can order a range of information products for your workplace including fact sheets, booklets, posters and information kits.

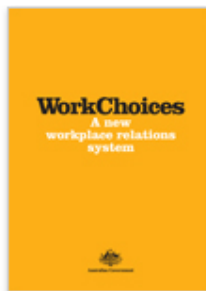
Phone 1300 363 264 or visit www.workchoices.gov.au to find out about the information available.



WorkChoices fact sheets



WorkChoices brochure



WorkChoices information kit

Non-English speaking background/Indigenous groups: It is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, colour, sex, sexual preference, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, family responsibilities, pregnancy, political opinion, national extraction or social origin. Information on WorkChoices is available in a variety of languages for people of non-English speaking backgrounds and can be ordered from the WorkChoices website (www.workchoices.gov.au) or by phoning the WorkChoices Infoline (1300 363 264).

Outworkers: Employee outworkers are entitled to receive the minimum pay and leave entitlements in the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard. Specific outworker terms can still be included in awards to ensure that outworkers' overall conditions are fair and reasonable in comparison with the award conditions for employees who perform the same kind of work as the outworkers at an employer's business or commercial premises.

Young people: Employees under the age of 18 are required to have the written consent of an appropriate adult (such as a parent or guardian) before signing an Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA). The OEA can provide free advice and assistance to help young people understand their agreement making options. Contact the OEA on 1300 366 632.

Unions: Employees maintain the right to belong or not belong to a union or employer organisation. Employees can nominate a union representative, or other bargaining agent, to assist them to negotiate an AWA or employee collective agreement.

Women: The Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard provides for a maximum of 52 weeks unpaid parental leave, shared between both parents at the time of the birth of a child, or the adoption of a child under five years of age. Parental leave can be taken as maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

Under WorkChoices, parental leave entitlements in awards will be preserved for employees covered by awards; award entitlements will continue to apply if they are more generous conditions than the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard.

Employees covered by workplace agreements made after the commencement of WorkChoices on 27 March 2006 are entitled to parental leave that is equal to or more favourable than the entitlements provided in the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard.