

• Industrial Staff Union •

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ISU

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Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2013

About the ISU

The Industrial Staff Union is a newly registered association of employees and one of the smallest registered organisation of employees in the country with just over 80 members. The ISU has been operating under the NSW Industrial Relations Act 1996 for nearly 40 years. The ISU is run by and for the members with no employees, and no paid officials.

General Issues

This submission is only general in nature as the ISU does not have the resources or time to make a detailed analysis at this time. In spite of this, the ISU does seek to raise some important issue for the Senate to consider during the review of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment 2013.

The compliance costs and red tape associated with the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 is significant. The proposal to increase compliance costs by the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment 2013 increases the compliance costs, increases the red tape, and increases the time required to be spent on compliance.

The ISU operates as an independent association of employees, run by the members who form the association. The ISU has no employees, and the elected officials do not receive any income from the work done for the ISU. The members of the ISU collectively determine the contributions, the spending, the budget and priorities of the association. We are genuinely a volunteer organisation, run by and for our members.

Under the current Act and with the new proposals, the ISU is now required to remove the self determination of the membership with respect to financial decision making. Training all the members in financial accountability as required by the current Act, with the addition of new requirements, is not practical. This reduces the democratic control by the ISU members of the finances of their organisation.

The ISU strongly supports democratic control of organisations of employees and strong accountability for officials elected by the members. With respect to the

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regulatory burden, the red tape and the high compliance costs both financially and time required, the ISU requests that small registered organisations are provided with reduced regulatory burden.

In no way should any reduced regulatory burden result in less accountability or less transparency for registered organisations. However, parliament needs to recognise that small registered organisations have a much higher level of inherent transparency and the impact of regulatory compliance is much higher than for large, well-resourced organisations.

The ISU requests that consideration is given to small registered organisations to reduce the regulatory burden and make compliance with the intent of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2013 easier for small registered organisations, less time consuming for small registered organisations and less expensive for small registered organisations.

Yours truly

Blake Stephens
Secretary
Industrial Staff Union