



The HR Nicholls Society Inc.

Reforming Australia's Industrial Relations



The Editor,
Australian Financial Review

29 June, 2011

Dear Sir,

I write to correct an impression in Geoff Kitney's article "Reith forces Coalition to rethink IR" (June 29, 2011)

The HR Nicholls always will and always has supported a deregulated labour market and while at times critical of the approach adopted by the Howard government and Minister Reith for its still overly heavy handed regulatory stance supported the overall thrust of the reform.

However the Society was never a supporter of Work Choices as we deemed it as going down an even more regulatory path with its 1500 odd pages of legislation and associated regulations. In fact we sought a full inquiry on the labour market in December 2004, a request which the Howard government ignored to its great cost.

We recommended to the government of the day that the Reith legislation be retained and that employers simply be given an "opt out" provision to lessen the regulatory burden on business so that employers and employees could strike mutual beneficial arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Bisits,
President HR Nicholls Society.

0438405527
adam.bisits@bisits.com