



18 November 2013

Practice Group(s):

*Labour, Employment
and Workplace Safety*

Australia's New Government Cracks Down on Unions

By Gerard Phillips(GP) and Kate Richie from BRR Media (BRR)

GP The Federal Government's going to introduce some new legislation to deal with registered organisations or trade unions as it were. Is this necessary? Well of course it is, the ongoing HSU scandal, the ongoing Police investigation into the AWU in Melbourne, confirms that it's necessary to do. I mean anyone that holds other people's money, whether it's a real estate agent, a lawyer or whether it's a public company with shareholders money have to comply with significant rules, the Unions should, it's in their own best interests if they want to survive into the future and they should you know really get with the program and you know comply with what corporate Australia has to do with anyway.

BRR **Gerard, the Federal Government has also introduced legislation to reinstate the ABCC, what will this mean for workplaces in the construction industry?**

GP Well it's a curiosity Kate because you know over time the CFMEU it doesn't what laws have been passed they don't comply with them. I mean in Victoria and Grocon dispute the Victorian Supreme Court issued orders in the nature of injunctions against the Union and they ignored them. Do they need a tough cop on the beat they sure do, but I think you know it's not just a matter of the law, it's a matter of actually getting the Union to comply and I think the ABCC itself has some problems. I mean in the past it's picked the wrong cases, prepared them badly, you know they really need to look at their own operations; but is it needed well of course it is, the lawlessness in the construction industry has got to stop.

BRR **Well hopefully we see some progression in this area, Gerard thanks for joining us.**

GP Thanks Kate.

Contacts:

Gerard Phillips
gerard.phillips@klgates.com
+61.2.9513.2561

Australia's New Government Cracks Down on Unions

K&L GATES

Anchorage Austin Beijing Berlin Boston Brisbane Brussels Charleston Charlotte Chicago Dallas Doha Dubai Fort Worth Frankfurt
Harrisburg Hong Kong Houston London Los Angeles Melbourne Miami Milan Moscow Newark New York Orange County Palo Alto Paris
Perth Pittsburgh Portland Raleigh Research Triangle Park San Diego San Francisco São Paulo Seattle Seoul Shanghai Singapore Spokane
Sydney Taipei Tokyo Warsaw Washington, D.C. Wilmington

K&L Gates practices out of 48 fully integrated offices located in the United States, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and South America and represents leading global corporations, growth and middle-market companies, capital markets participants and entrepreneurs in every major industry group as well as public sector entities, educational institutions, philanthropic organizations and individuals. For more information about K&L Gates or its locations, practices and registrations, visit www.klgates.com.

This publication is for informational purposes and does not contain or convey legal advice. The information herein should not be used or relied upon in regard to any particular facts or circumstances without first consulting a lawyer.

©2013 K&L Gates LLP. All Rights Reserved.