

Workers mass in their thousands - 1st July 2005

Workers gathered in their thousands yesterday (1st July) to voice their outrage at Howard's (*Prime Minister Pinocchio*) attacks on workers' rights. Over 100,000 gathered at more than 200 venues across the state.

Especially well attended were the six venues around the Central Coast, including Central Coast Leagues club where it was literally standing room only, with the overflow having to be accommodated in a downstairs venue.

Central Coast Leagues Club - 1,500

Woy Woy Leagues Club - 500

The Entrance Leagues Club - 500

Toukley Bowling Club - 350

Lake Munmorah United Bowling Club - 350

Wyong RSL - 250

Workers were informed as to how Pinocchio's changes would rip away such basic rights as rates of pay, overtime rates, shift allowances, public holidays and much more. Pinocchio wants to strip back awards or get rid of them entirely and allow employers to force workers onto individual contracts (AWA - Australian Workplace Agreements) that will contain only five basic conditions:

1. Weekly hours of work 38 hours (that's over 7 days or even averaged annually!)
2. sick pay (8 days per year)
3. Annual leave (but no loading!)
4. Parental leave
5. Minimum hourly rate (set by his "fair pay commission, not by an award!)

this will leave workers at the mercy of the boss -

sign here - no! - you're sacked!

Across the venues workers indicated their disgust at this unprecedented attack on their most basic of rights and passed a resolution vowing to continue the fight until their rights were guaranteed protected from Pinocchio.

Prime Minister Pinocchio claims a mandate to introduce these attacks because the Australian people voted for them. **Another lie from Pinocchio!**

At no stage during the campaign did Pinocchio announce his take over of State rights, his "Fair" (*substitute Fair for Low*) Pay commission, his use of the corporations powers to rope every incorporated business into the Federal system (his new unfair system) whether they be State employees or not and finally the biggest lie of all, the stripping back of unfair dismissal rights for employees employed by companies with **100** or fewer employees! Effectively exposing 3.6 million Australians to the whim of the boss.

This attack will change the way we live in this country, as this will affect community groups, sporting clubs etc. because if employers utilise the power Pinocchio is trying to give them, then things as basic as the weekend as we know it will disappear and we will be at work and not at the park watching our kids play sport, helping at the sausage sizzle or just enjoying our families.

While many workers had an idea of these attacks, many don't, and we are obligated to inform all workers of this outrage. This attack is on all workers, whether they be union member or not, Pinocchio is not discriminating, he is attacking all workers. Even those that voted for him! So we must remain united and inform as many as we can, participate in every rally, protest or meeting that is designed to inform workers or to tell Pinocchio and his masters that we are pulling his strings, not them!



your rights at work
worth fighting for
