

# Hardhat EXPRESS

**CFMEU**  
CONSTRUCTION  
AND GENERAL



The Election issue...

Issue 4/ August '10

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION.

## Aug 21 Australian Federal Election - The Parties and The Candidates



### The Liberal Party

**Tony Abbott and the Liberals cannot be trusted with your rights at work. As Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations he was responsible for introducing the ABCC and always argued in favour of WorkChoices.**

He introduced laws which took away rights from construction workers - the very laws that are being used to prosecute Ark Tribe.

He is telling the Australian people that he will not bring back WorkChoices, yet his Industrial Relations spokesman, Eric Abetz is saying he would "tweak" laws.

WorkChoices is quite clearly back on the Coalition's agenda.

Big business wants them back as soon as Abbott is elected. He would cave into their demands, restrict unfair dismissal, reintroduce individual contracts, keep the ABCC - these are Abbott's policies.

Abbott said that "he'll make no legislative changes to Fair Work in first term," but added "he can't guarantee against changes within the Fair Work legislation."

This is the bloke who said that having a bad boss is like having a bad father or a bad husband.

This is the bloke who insulted dying asbestos campaigner Bernie Banton as he fought against James Hardie.

We know that Abbott hates unions and unionised workers. Don't trust him!



### The Australian Labor Party

**Julia Gillard and Labor have already abolished WorkChoices. They introduced legislation to abolish the ABCC, but Tony Abbott's Liberal party won't support it, blocking it in the Senate.**

We don't believe Labor's proposed changes go far enough and if Julia Gillard is elected we will continue to fight for workers' rights on site. Rights will only go backwards under Abbott and the Liberal Party.

Labor has also developed the Protecting Workers' Entitlements package. This package stands in stark contrast to Abbott and the Coalition, who will simply rip workers' entitlements away.

Labor will protect workers' entitlements in one of three ways.

The Fair Entitlements Guarantee will protect workers' entitlements like redundancy pay, annual leave, long service leave.

In Securing Super, Labor will strengthen measures to ensure employees receive all their superannuation entitlements.

Lastly, Strengthening Corporate and Taxation Law will give ASIC increased powers, strengthening penalties to take action against companies that do the wrong thing.

The Government's stimulus package saved jobs in our industry. Abbott would slash this package costing thousands of jobs in the construction industry.



### The Greens

**Bob Brown and The Greens have a very good policy on Industrial Relations including the abolition of the ABCC.**

We don't agree with them on every issue, but they deserve to be congratulated on their stand on workers' rights. The union also supports their plan for a fast train link between the eastern seaboard capital cities.

But make no mistake, the day after the election there will either be a Labor or Liberal government - though the Greens may hold the balance in the Senate. If you vote green or independent, make sure your preference doesn't go to elect one of Tony Abbott's Liberal cronies.

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CFMEU on Twitter, Facebook

More election info...

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## The Labor Government To Introduce Important National Trade Cadetships For Young People

Students around Australia looking for a trade career are set to greatly benefit from the announcement by the Gillard Labor Government of a new National Trade Cadetship.

The Cadetships will ensure students at school who want a career in trades have a clearly defined pathway, equal in quality, value and rigour to other traditional academic pursuits.

The Cadetships will equip young people with the necessary skills and experience to make positive contributions to the workplace.

Employers and industry will benefit from a better skilled workforce and in particular, from less worker turn-over as young people will be better prepared for work and their apprenticeship.

National Trade Cadetships will be nationally recognised and will provide credit towards an apprenticeship or further training.



There will be two streams of Cadetship.

1. National Trade Cadetship – Foundation, will focus on essential work readiness skills and laying the foundation for further training.
2. National Trade Cadetship - Pre-Apprentice will focus on a specific trade or occupation area.

The Cadetships will provide students with general basic skills and competencies that can be easily transferred within and between industries.

The National Trade Cadetships will be developed by the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority (ACARA), in partnership with Industry Skills Councils and with States and Territories.

ACARA will work with States and Territories to ensure the Cadetships contribute towards state based senior awards, in the same way as other approved subjects under the National Curriculum.

The Cadetships will be delivered in the Government's new Trade Training Centres which are being constructed through a \$2.5 billion investment by the Gillard Labor Government.

Tony Abbott has said he will cut Trades Training Centres in high schools. This means over 1,800 secondary schools and 1.2 million students will miss out on the chance to start learning a trade at high school.

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## Labor's GFC Stimulus Package Helped Save Our Jobs

The Global Financial Crisis that spread across the globe caused the biggest threat to jobs and living standards of Australian workers for numerous generations.

Australia managed to weather the storm a lot better than most countries did, however, because the Labor Government acted quickly and decisively to stimulate the economy.

Under Labor, the Government spent \$16.2 billion on stimulating the economy when the global financial crisis hit. Thousands of Australian construction workers would have lost their jobs if the government hadn't acted so swiftly.

Abbott would cut this program, just like he cut health funding when he was Minister for Health and Ageing.

The economic downturn again highlighted that unions have a fundamental role



to play in protecting the jobs and rights of workers because we have a strong safety net of rights, standards and protections for all workers.

Unions stood up to protect workers' jobs, their conditions and their living standards. Under an Abbott Liberal Government, jobs would go, job condi-

tions would definitely worsen and living standards would subsequently suffer as a result.

The CFMEU, along with other Australian unions and Labor were at the forefront of the push to protect jobs from the earliest signs that Australia would not be immune from the Global Financial Crisis.

Unions argued for stimulus measures, proposed innovative ways of preserving jobs while retraining and reskilling the workforce.

This is something Labor answered the call to. Under the Liberals and Abbott, we can only imagine what might have happened as a result had they been in government.

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# Abbott To Bring In More Cheap Foreign Labour

**Opposition leader Tony Abbott has promised to cap Australia's population growth by slashing immigration by nearly half over the next three years.**

Even though Abbott says he will cut immigration, when he was part of the Howard Government tens of thousands of workers were brought in from overseas on cheap rates of pay and less entitlements to work in many industries, including construction.

Now he says that he'll expand the temporary work migration program (457 visas) if elected.

The 457 temporary work visa was a disaster under the Howard regime, with employers massively rorting this so-called "skilled program" to bring in thousands of low-paid, exploitable and vulnerable foreign workers, many who were unskilled or even semi-skilled.

While it has been greatly cleaned up under the Labor Government, after much agitating by the CFMEU and some other unions, any reversion back to the 457 work visa, would prove costly to migrants, workers and safety.

The CFMEU will continue to press to improve the integrity of the 457 visa program even further.

The number of 457 visas granted in trade occupations has now been cut by two-thirds, from over 10,000 in 2007-08



This man will ruin a perfectly good day and workers' rights

to now only around 3,500 in 2009-10.

457 workers must now be paid the same as equivalent Australian workers at the same workplace. There is also a tighter screening of trade qualifications, and the Worker Protection Act 2008 imposes much stricter obligations on employers.

Abbott would do away with this and return to the John Howard years, and support the use of cheap labour to replace Australian workers.

Abbott told media, "We will determine who comes to our country and the circumstances under which they come."

It all echoes the very same sentiments of former Prime Minister, John Howard.

While Howard might have acted tough on the boat people, he opened the floodgates for bad bosses to exploit the influx of cheap migrant workers.

These workers were underpaid, and didn't share the same rights as many other workers.

While the planned cuts will focus on family and student visa programs, temporary migration, however, would be boosted.

Don't let it happen. Put Abbott LAST on the ballot come August 21.



Many migrant workers were exploited under Liberal's 457 Visas

# Ark Tribe Trial Adjournd Again

On July 20-22, Ark Tribe was again dragged through the courts like a common criminal all because he allegedly failed to attend an interrogation by the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC).

He faces a possible six months imprisonment as a result.

The matter has now been adjourned until September 13.

Ark's lawyers throughout the three day hearing continually objected to evidence brought forward, maintaining the case was unlawful, illegal, and outside of the powers of the ABCC.

It was also revealed during the course of proceedings, that ABCC inspector Seamus Flynn admitted he had no evidence that Ark even attended the union meeting in question. Yet the ABCC's coercive powers were used anyway.

Make no mistake; Tony Abbott created these laws as Workplace Relations Minister under the Howard Government.

Abbott established the ABCC and he continues to support these laws 100%. He cannot claim to be against WorkChoices while he still supports this draconian institution the ABCC, which has powers to interrogate and imprison ordinary construction workers.

These laws are worse than WorkChoices and Abbott is their number one supporter.

Labor introduced legislation to repeal the ABCC, but Abbott and his Liberals blocked it in the Senate.

We will continue our campaign to give all construction workers equality before the law. They deserve the same rights as any other Australian worker.

The CFMEU, numerous other unions and construction workers all around the country will continue to stand side by side with Ark as he takes a stand for all of our rights at work. And we will continue to do so until Tony Abbott's ABCC is abolished!

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# The Election issue...

## CFMEU Now On Twitter, Facebook & Youtube!

The CFMEU Construction and General Division Now Has Twitter, Facebook and our very own Youtube.



CFMEU C&G has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to create our very own Facebook group, as well as Twitter profile. We also have our very own Youtube channel where you can watch CFMEU videos and other great campaign material.

The move was made to keep you, our members more up to date with information as it happened.

We can now let you know about any rallies happening across the country and where to join in. Provide Ark Tribe trial updates instantly, Federal election comings and going as well as other important, useful information.

Easily accessible from computers or phones, all three have been designed with members in mind no matter what

your technical level or computer skills. Easy to use, interactive and immediate.

So now while you are onsite, during smoko you can view the latest videos and tweets, or when our next RDO is on.

We can also resubmit other tweets from unions, media outlets and individuals for other important messages.

We'll be adding more information, photos, videos, tweets and videos all the time, so log in to facebook at: [facebook.com/group/cfmeu](http://facebook.com/group/cfmeu), for twitter, [twitter.com/CFMEU CG](http://twitter.com/CFMEU	CG) and for Youtube it's [youtube.com/user/CFMEUConstruction](http://youtube.com/user/CFMEUConstruction).

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## LABOR vs LIBS

### Tony Abbott & Liberals

Abbott and the Liberals introduced the laws which took away rights from construction workers.

He introduced the ABCC. He wants to bring back Workchoices. He would increase the powers of the ABCC. He thinks it's okay to have a bad boss. He will rip off our entitlements and workers' rights that we've fought hard for.

Come the election on August 21, if you value your rights and want to keep them don't vote Liberal. Put Abbott and his Liberal mates last on the ballot.

### Julia Gillard & Labor

On Saturday, 21 August 2010, you will be given a clear choice: whether you want Australia to move forward or backwards.

A choice between scraping the ABCC or keeping it. A choice of better workers' rights and entitlements or none. Of building more GP Super Clinics or cutting them. Between expanding Trades Training Centres in schools or eliminating them.

This is a moment when Australia needs many changes. But it is not a moment to turn back the clock. Don't let that happen, vote Labor this election.

### How to Make Your Vote Count

Fill in the candidates in the order you want to see them elected. Give a '1' to your first choice, a '2' to your second choice, and so on. We know making 8th, 9th and 10th choices gets tedious, but you have to do it to make your choice and vote count.

If you are not sure how to vote, there is nothing wrong with following a how-to-vote card from the Labor candidate in your area or region.

Make your vote count this election. Our workers' rights demand it.

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## UNION NEWS AND UPDATES

### NOW PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Having trouble coming in to your nearest CFMEU Branch to pay your Dues? Can't find the time to get off work to do it?

Relax. Now you can pay your Dues online. CFMEU has now set up a system whereby member payments can be made securely and instantly.

Really easy to use, all you need to do is go to the CFMEU website, click on the Pay Your Dues tab and fill in all your details, following the prompts.

### CFMEU TAX GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The CFMEU Tax Guide is now available in all branches and offices, as well as online.

**FOR MORE / GO TO** [www.cfmeu.asn.au/downloads](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/downloads)

### CFMEU ONLINE SHOP NOW AVAILABLE



The CFMEU has developed an online shop for members. So now you can wear your heart proudly on your sleeve with exclusive CFMEU attire! It's quick and

easy to order and will have you looking the part onsite or off in no time.

Find a product you want by clicking the headings, choose a size and enter the quantity you want. Then fill in your details and follow the prompts. There's plenty of union gear on offer from, T-Shirts, Polos, Jackets, and both long and short sleeved shirts. So what are you waiting for? Step onsite in style.

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