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One year on - WorkChoices defies the critics

Statement by Heather Ridout
Chief Executive Australian Industry Group

“One year on, the Government’s WorkChoices reforms are defying the critics,” Ai Group Chief Executive Heather Ridout said today.

“When you look at employment, at industrial disputation and the strength and discipline of real wage growth you would have to say that WorkChoices is delivering positive outcomes for Australia.

“The magnitude of the task for business in implementing the reforms has been huge and exhaustive. Many companies are still yet to come to terms fully with many elements of the reforms and the implementation is ongoing.

“Major new record-keeping regulations come into force tomorrow. The regulations have been the subject of intense debate and have required all businesses to review their payroll procedures and records.

“There are clearly challenges for Government and business in communicating the benefits of the reforms. But the record speaks for itself and given the important advances that have been made it is vital that the reforms not be wound back.

“We would also repeat what we said to the Senate when the legislation was before Parliament - the impact of the reforms will not be fully appreciated for three to five years,” Mrs Ridout said.

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