

Hon Rob Hulls MP

Public Accounts & Estimates Committee

2007-08 Budget Estimates Hearing

Minister for Industrial Relations

30 May 2007

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS VICTORIA

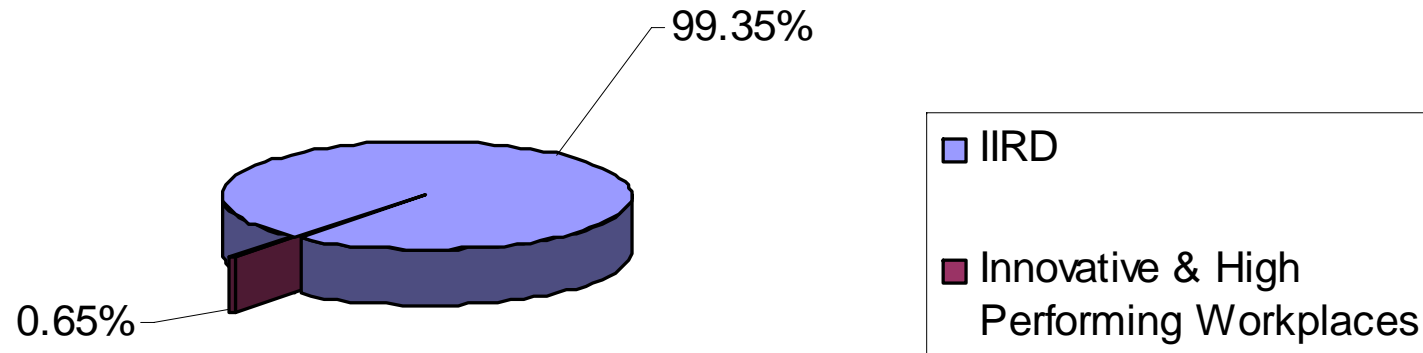
OUTPUT GROUP

Innovative and High Performing Workplaces

Covers all industrial relations functions including:

- Strategic advice on IR issues and legislative change;
- Private Sector and Public Sector Policy Units; and
- Information, administration and compliance for long service leave, outworkers and child employment

Innovative & High Performing Workplaces Output as a Percentage of the Total IIRD budget



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/2007

- Implemented new legislation to ensure fairer workplaces.
- Public sector agreements reached and delivered within IR and wages policy.
- Development of an Ethical Purchasing Policy.
- Establishment of independent conciliation services to assist the resolution of industrial disputes to avoid costly court proceedings.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/2007

- Implementation of Pay Equity Program.
- Promotion of Better Work & Family Balance for all Victorians.
- Amending legislation to protect workers' conditions of employment post WorkChoices.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/2007

- Developing new legislation on broader entitlements for outworkers.
- Implemented the Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Act 2005.
- Implemented improved long service leave legislation.
- Establishment of the WRA.

WORKPLACE RIGHTS ADVOCATE

- The Office of the Workplace Rights Advocate is an independent statutory office that continues to investigate unfair and illegal industrial relations practices.
- The WRA has enabled more than 3600 Victorians to obtain independent and free advice on WorkChoices and employment related issues.
- The WRA is also undertaking research and inquiries on employment issues impacting on Victorian Workers.
- The WRA administers the fairness test for new agreements in the Victorian Public Sector.

KEY INITIATIVES 2007/2008

- Advocacy of better IR frameworks through development of appropriate responses to changes in federal industrial relations laws.
- Legislation establishing a Victorian Workplace Pay and Conditions Standard.
- EO Act amendments - wages and conditions & parental and carer responsibilities.

KEY INITIATIVES 2007/2008

- Establishing a Working Families Council, and developing an Online Toolkit.
- Legislating to prevent unauthorised deductions from employees pay.
- Cooling – off period for mediation before action for damages.

KEY INITIATIVES 2007/2008

- Strengthening the registration system for Labour Hire and Temporary Employment Businesses.
- The negotiation of key Public Sector Agreements for 2007.

IN SUMMARY

PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES 2007/2008

- Advocate better industrial relations frameworks in Victoria.
- Promote innovative and sustainable modern workplaces
- Work to protect pre-WorkChoices Federal award minimum conditions.
- Provide information to employers and employees through the Office of the Workplace Rights Advocate.
- Promote cooperative public sector industrial relations.
- Oversee negotiations of key public sector EBAs covering teachers, nurses & police.
- Assist Victorian working families.