Standing Committee on Social Issues

July 2006

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

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Supplementary Submission: Inquiry into Impact of Commonwealth WorkChoices Legislation

Questions on notice:

Could you provide additional information about young people undertaking unpaid work for an employer as a precursor to securing a job with that employer?

The NSW Office of Industrial Relations and WorkCover NSW commissioned the Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training (ACIRRT) to conduct a comprehensive survey of young people and work. The survey attracted more than 5000 responses and found that 12% of respondents had worked an unpaid work trial. Approximately 50% of these unpaid trials were less than one day, but a third were for between one day and one week. Furthermore, one in six of these unpaid trials occured for more than one week. Of those young people working in retail and hospitality, around one in eight respondents had worked an unpaid trial.

Could you provide information about the effect of an injury on casual/part-time workers and the ongoing effects of the injury on such workers, particularly the young?

In 2005, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People conducted a major study titled 'Children at Work'. Relating to young people and the type of employment, the report found that the likelihood of injury increases with the hours worked. Children and young people in casual and regular work are more likely to be injured than those doing one-off work.

Regards

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YAPA: Assisting young people in NSW to achieve a more equitable social status in terms of government actions and decisions and access to social