



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

VICTORIAN INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT STUDY

116 Victorian contracts have been analysed in a thesis in the Law Faculty at the ANU by Jocelyn Bell.

She found strong evidence that workers on these contracts have experienced lost conditions and/or lower pay. She found:

- only 1/5 stated that there was a wage increase
- the majority had penalty rates/shift loadings reduced or removed
- 1/3 had abolished overtime rates, and the majority reduced them
- half omitted reference to an employee representative in negotiations.

She said Victorian workers on contracts gave more concessions and appeared to make fewer gains than those protected by the industrial umpire. She estimated that a retail sales worker who worked Thursday night and Saturday mornings would have lost around \$50 a week or 15 per cent of pay from being on a contract. New entrants were particularly vulnerable.

CAIRNS
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