

NEWS FLASH

Tuesday November 14, 2006

The High Court has this morning dismissed the challenge by the States and Unions as to the constitutional validity of Work Choices, upholding the entire legislation.

This means that the new legislation is here to stay, as originally legislated by the Federal Government.

The key question that comes out of this decision is how the states will react. The Federal Government and Employer groups have called for the States to hand over their remaining powers to the Commonwealth. At present the State systems will still cover approximately 15% of all employers (those who are not corporations - such as partnerships , trusts and sole traders).

At the time of writing, the states have vowed not to hand over their powers, apart from Victoria, who already have. This means that, for the moment, the Industrial Relations landscape will continue to have two different systems.

Other Developments

Yesterday the Government announced some new amendments to the Work Choices legislation, which we will be summarizing and sending to you shortly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding employment issues.