

MEDIA RELEASE

PVCA LEADS IR LEGISLATION SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Print and Visual Communication Association will issue its second Advisory Notice this week as well as an industry briefing seminar on Tuesday 13th December, to provide guidance and critical information across the incoming IR legislation for Australia.

As the peak body, PVCA, has communicated concerns challenging the legislation and calling on higher employee numbers, clarification to purpose and reducing impact on small business owners, reflecting the industry's concerns over various components of the Bill. The PVCA has argued that there has not been adequate reasoning or research, to say that the multi-employer bargaining component will bring productivity gains, increased wages, and could be a significant cost on businesses.

"Given the Bill's Regulatory Impact Statement shows that small business owners may be required to spend at least 4.6 hours every day for up to six months, away from their businesses, negotiating a multi-employer agreement should such bargaining be initiated, and recognizing that 95% of print businesses are categorised as 'small business', or operating under \$2.0 million turnover per annum, PVCA is committed to ensuring our members are well-informed across the new legislation to reduce the possible impact to their businesses. The Advisory Notices and the Member Briefing Seminar are being developed with specificity to our industry, to ensure our members are well-versed in managing the incoming legislation," commented Kellie Northwood, Chief Executive Officer, PVCA.

The Bill has had intensive debate from all sectors with the government yesterday announcing it will accept all the recommended amendments from the Senate, including increasing the number of employees from 15 to 20 who are exempt and the re-definition of the inclusion up to 50 employees, onus of proof to the unions, rather than on businesses.

Additionally, the Minister will be provided specific power to designate an occupation or industry that will be eligible, differing from the single-interest stream outlined above and covering low-paid worker industries. Given the print industry pays well-above the Award rate, this would be unlikely to impact the print industry.

There is a third change which sits outside of the scope of these new laws which is an annual review by an independent panel across government support payments, such as for JobSeeker recipients prior to each federal budget being delivered.

"The legislation in its current form is broad and lacks definition in parts, there are still some debates and clarity to be finalised through the Senate this week which should provide some tightening in some areas. We will be watching these debates closely to review the finalised Bill to then be in a position to brief our members with detailed accuracy to our industry. Every business and every site in our industry operates under different costs and revenue arrangements which will present challenges to the omnibus approach of this Bill, however we will prepare our members and further support them throughout the implementation of the legislation," commented Charles Watson, GM – IR, Policy & Governance, PVCA.



Watson has recently been appointed as the GM – IR, Policy & Governance into the PVCA and brings over 14 years print industry experience having worked in the drafting of print awards and government legislation across the print industry historically.

“Our members will be provided initial information and advice, however further long-term, this legislation evidences the role of the peak industry body for our members. Only the PVCA offers specialisation across this legislation for our industry and maintains a positive working relationship with our trade union, with a balanced view to ensure benefit of our members,” concluded Northwood.

Registrations are now open: [PVCA IR Legislation Member Briefing](#).

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About Print & Visual Communications

The Print and Visual Communication Association (PVCA) is the leadership and support organisation for all businesses in the print, packaging, graphic design and media technology industry in Australia. We work to support and promote an evolving industry, and to help our members become more profitable and sustainable.

Please visit the [Print & Visual Communication Association](#) for more information or contact:

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