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Daily Media Overview



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Porter denies Labor claims on workplace laws

The Australian, Australia, General News, Ewin Hannan

30 Jul 2019

Page 2 • 353 words • ASR AUD 3,125 • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 141.00 cm² • National • Australia • Ministers and Department - Press • ID: 1151807681

Attorney-General Christian Porter has denied Labor and union claims its proposed workplace laws would open the way for the nurses' union to be deregistered if members took unprotected industrial action in support of better staff ratios. The opposition and the ACTU insist passage of the Coalition's Ensuring Integrity Bill would allow the Federal Court to deregister the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation if nurses took unprotected action to protest unsafe staffing levels at a hospital or aged-care facility.

[View original](#) - Full text: 353 word(s), ~1 min

Audience

94,448 CIRCULATION

Keywords

Attorney-General(1), Christian Porter(1)

Senate crossbench jury out on 'union bashing' bills

Australian Financial Review, Australia, General News, Phillip Coorey

30 Jul 2019

Page 5 • 582 words • ASR AUD 4,551 • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 225.00 cm² • National • Australia • Crime Prevention, Enforcement & ACLEI - Press • ID: 1151820883

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson is concerned about corruption within unions but a bill to facilitate the deregistration of rogue organisations and their officials needed to be better aligned with corporate law. With the fate of the Ensuring Integrity Bill contingent on the Senate crossbench, Senator Hanson said her party had yet to make up its mind.

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Audience

38,015 CIRCULATION

Keywords

crime(1), laundering(1), money(2), organisation(3), organisations(1), organised(1)

Busting unions It's not about one man or one union. The rights of millions are at stake.

themonthly.com.au 29 Jul 2019 4:00 PM

1195 words • ASR AUD 2,997 • ABCC - Internet • ID: 1151664636

Put aside gotcha politics for a moment. One of the most substantial debates in parliament this week is over the government's union-busting Ensuring Integrity Bill, which will further erode the rights of millions of working Australians.

[Read on source site](#)

Audience

N/A UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, N/A AVERAGE STORY AUDIENCE

Keywords

ACTU(2),Christian Porter(1),industrial relations(1),most(2),next(1),READ(2),recently(1),subject(1)



30 Jul 2019

The Australian, Australia

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Porter denies Labor claims on workplace laws

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

Attorney-General Christian Porter has denied Labor and union claims its proposed workplace laws would open the way for the nurses' union to be deregistered if members took unprotected industrial action in support of better staff ratios.

The opposition and the ACTU insist passage of the Coalition's Ensuring Integrity Bill would allow the Federal Court to deregister the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation if nurses took unprotected action to pro-

test unsafe staffing levels at a hospital or aged-care facility.

But Mr Porter said the claim was absurd.

"No nurses' union in Australia has ever engaged in the sort of systemic unlawful behaviour that would provide the basis for a court to deregister them," he said.

"Labor is clearly running out of excuses for its opposition to this bill, which simply establishes a minimum standard for lawful behaviour in the workplace."

The government argues the bill is drafted to avoid the consequences claimed by Labor and the ACTU.

In considering whether it

would be "just, in all the circumstances" to deregister an organisation, the government says the bill expressly requires the Federal Court to consider the nature of the matter giving rise to the application and what is in the best interests of the members of the organisation as a whole.

But unions disputed that a union would have to engage in systemic unlawful behaviour to be deregistered, saying the bill required only one instance of "obstructive industrial action".

Greens MP Adam Bandt told parliament that industrial action by nurses or bus drivers was potential grounds for deregistering

their union under the bill, which will be subject to a Senate inquiry reporting by October 25 before being voted on in the Senate.

ACTU president Michele O'Neil said One Nation, Centre Alliance and Jacqui Lambie had all expressed concerns about the bill. She said it was outrageous that civil law breaches would be sufficient to get a union deregistered and criminal breaches were not required.

"The sort of civil breaches we are talking about is things like unions being late in their paperwork where companies are routinely late in lodging their paperwork," Ms O'Neil said.



30 Jul 2019

Australian Financial Review, Australia

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Senate crossbench jury out on 'union bashing' bills

Phillip Coorey
Political editor

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson is concerned about corruption within unions but a bill to facilitate the deregistration of rogue organisations and their officials needed to be better aligned with corporate law.

With the fate of the Ensuring Integrity Bill contingent on the Senate crossbench, Senator Hanson said her party had yet to make up its mind.

The bill has been referred to an inquiry and will not be debated in the Senate until October but, already, lobbying of the Senate crossbench by both sides is intense.

With Cory Bernardi on side, the government needs three more Senate votes.

One Nation has two votes, Centre Alliance has two votes and Jacqui Lambie has a single vote.

All are undecided.

Senator Lambie said she would be more likely to vote for the bill if John Setka was still at the helm of the Victorian division of the CFMEU while Centre Alliance wants changes, despite the government saying the bill was already harmonised with corporate law.

Centre Alliance wants a provision removed that would enable a minister to lodge an application to deregister a union or an official, something for which there is no equivalent in the corporate sector.

Senator Hanson echoed similar concerns.

"As far as I'm concerned there's still a lot of corruption," she said.

"I believe there's a place for unions in the country but they actually all have to be treated the same as corporations."

Industrial Relations Minister Christian Porter said there were already provisions in the Corporations Act enabling a company to be wound up.

"There are also presently grounds to deregister an employee or employer organisation but they have proved ineffective and they have never been able to be successfully applied to deregister any organisation," he said.

"That is despite the fact that those laws are meant to apply in circumstances where we now have the CFMEU being the most unlawful organisation in the history of Australia's industrial laws."

ACTU president Michele O'Neil said the corporate equivalent would be allowing a union official to move to have a company deregistered.

She said it was outrageous the government was focused on unions when corporate wrongdoing was rampant, including new allegations aired by Nine media against Crown that involved money laundering and associating with organised crime.

Mr Porter appealed to Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick to consider the bill as a matter of integrity.

"Rex has long been a campaigner and champion for integrity," he told ABC Radio National on Monday.

"Obviously that integrity isn't just about inside government or the public sector – there has to be proper behaviour in unions."

The government is also prosecuting this week the passage of a bill that would stop unions and employer groups hiving off the earnings from special funds, which are set up under enterprise agreements, to guarantee worker entitlements.

Ms O'Neil said those earnings were being used for legitimate purposes regarding worker welfare, but Mr Porter said the money was being rorted.

He cited the Protect fund established within the electrical sector. From this fund, \$32 million was transferred to the Electrical Trades Union, which then gave \$10.4 million to the employer group, the National Employer Commu-

nications Association.

"When you go and look at the accounts, the employer association, they note in their last financial report that the \$10.4 million profit share from Protect helped turn around a \$600,000 operating loss for the employer group and created \$9.7 million profit," he said. "Ten million dollars tends to do that."

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