



Casual win for workers

EXCLUSIVE
RENEE VIELLARIS

AUSTRALIA'S two million casual workers will be able to take legal action if bosses refuse to give them full-time or part-time work without a good reason, as the Federal Government moves to neutralise a key Labor attack.

Industrial Relations Minister Kelly O'Dwyer will today announce a shake-up to laws to give casual employees who have worked for a year or more the right to request to move to full-time or part-time work. It aims to address disquiet among Queensland National marginal seat holders and attacks from unions and Bill Shorten, who has capitalised on fears of the casualisation of the workforce.

REPORT PIO

Don't have to keep it casual Bosses now need reason to deny full-time work

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RENEE VIELLARIS
FEDERAL POLITICAL EDITOR

AUSTRALIA'S two million casual workers will be able to take legal action if bosses refuse to give them full or part-time work without a good reason, as the Federal Government moves to neutralise a key Labor attack.

Industrial Relations Minister Kelly O'Dwyer will today announce a shake-up to casualisation laws while also snuffing-out a potential \$8 billion in

backpay to "double-dipping" workers. The shake-up aims to address disquiet among Queensland National marginal seat holders and potent attacks from unions and Bill Shorten, who has capitalised on fears of the casualisation of the Australian workforce.

The Government will legislate to allow regular casual employees who have worked for a year or more the right to request to move to full-time or part-time work.

A Fair Work Commission decision late last year gave the right to 1.5 million casual employees on some awards, many of who do not know about the

change. The Government will introduce laws to extend that right to the remaining 500,000 casuals, many who work in mining, retail and hospitality.

Allowing casuals to request full-time or part-time work provides a mechanism for change. It means bosses must provide reasonable grounds as to why they cannot hire staff on a part-time or full-time basis and gives workers an avenue for review through the FWC or courts.

Dawson MP George Christensen, Capricornia MP Michelle Landry and Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd have been battling for the change since 2013 after Julia Gillard introduced an overhaul to industrial relations awards. Ms O'Dwyer said

many people were concerned about job security.

"If award-reliant employees have the right to make a request and it is subject to reasonable safeguards for employers, it is only fair that the same right is extended to other casuals who currently do not have the same right," she said.

She will also ask Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove to sign-off on a law to stop double-dipping by casuals.