
From: Trevor Clarke <tclarke@actu.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:15 PM
To: AWR
Subject: Annual Wage Review 2020-21: Draft Research Program

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Research Program for the 2020-21 Annual Wage Review.

We commend the Commission on the continued commitment to providing a Statistical Report and Research Reference list for the coming Review. We have found these resources to be highly useful in identifying relevant issues for further analysis in our submission.

Whilst we welcome the development of research reports into the broad subject areas which have been identified in the draft research program, we ask that the following the issues be considered in the further design and development of that research:

- The proposal to study labour market transitions during COVID-19 should ideally be sensitive to the possibility that some of those transitions may be driven not only by government imposed restrictions but also by government support measures. It may be that those effects prove difficult to disentangle, but that itself would be a conclusion of some significance. In addition, we consider it would be useful if it were possible to identify impacts on award reliance – for example whether changes in award reliance are driven only by transitions across industries and occupations or also by other factors.
- We interpret the research proposal regarding budget standards as involving a substantial task of producing new budget standards based on new items, quantities and contemporary considerations, rather than being wedded to the methodology or outcomes of the 2017 report by the Social Policy Research Centre. If this is an accurate assessment of what is contemplated, we welcome the proposal and note that section 4.4.5 our initial submission to this year's review gave detailed considerations to methodological and normative issues that arise in developing budget standards and highlighted some different approaches in other jurisdictions.

We would welcome the opportunity to consult further on these and related or emerging issues through the Minimum Wages Research Group, as required.

Regards,

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