



# MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 31 October 2008

## Minimum Wage Research Forum adds to knowledge bank

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has concluded its first Minimum Wage Research Forum and has hailed the event a resounding success.

Commission Chair, Professor Ian Harper said: "The two-day Forum brought together leading local and international researchers and academics, policy makers and many of the Commission's key stakeholder organisations, to debate and discuss the role of minimum wages in the Australian context.

"The level of discussion and debate among participants and the quality of the presentations indicate the Forum is a success, while the research presented will add significantly to the bank of minimum wage research knowledge."

Proceedings from the Forum, including keynote speeches from two international experts and 10 papers from local researchers, will be published and disseminated widely to inform discussion and debate on aspects of minimum wage-setting in Australia.

Professor Harper said the Commission organised the Forum because it believes that research has a central role in informing wage-setting decision-making.

He said: "In its brief history, the Commission has established a new approach to setting minimum wages in Australia – an approach that is based on a commitment to evidence-based decision making, and draws on information that is gathered through research, consultations and submissions."

Forum delegates were addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon. Julia Gillard, who provided details about the establishment of a new Minimum Wages Panel within Fair Work Australia.

Professor Harper said: "I am encouraged by the comments of the Deputy Prime Minister when she said the Fair Work Australia Minimum Wages Panel will have the power to commission research to help inform its decisions."

Professor Harper said a key outcome of the Forum is to encourage further research and discussion among academics and stakeholders.

He said: "The papers presented at the Forum provide decision makers with an invaluable resource that can be drawn on for future wage-setting decisions."

For more information about the Minimum Wage Research Forum, visit

[www.fairpay.gov.au/ResearchForum2008](http://www.fairpay.gov.au/ResearchForum2008)

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