

LABOUR LAW SEMINAR

‘Outwork Regulation in Australia: Does it Work?’

Since the mid-1980s, trade unions and community groups have campaigned for legal mechanisms that establish minimum hours, rates of pay and other work protections for outworkers in the textile, clothing and footwear industry. This has generated a number of new regulatory mechanisms, including the *Homeworkers Code of Practice* and the enactment by several Australian States of ‘supply chain legislation’ which allows outworkers to make claims for unpaid entitlements against companies which are not technically the employer of the outworker. It is a model which some have argued should be extended to other industries. In this seminar, Sally Weller will speak to her recent article published in the *Journal of Industrial Relations*, where she argued that the regulatory strategy that has been pursued with respect to clothing outwork effectively privatises responsibility for labour market conditions. A response will be provided by Shelley Marshall, who has recently written a book chapter assessing outwork regulation as a regulatory model. Shelley is also a member of the Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee.

Sally Weller is Senior Research Fellow – Regional Economies at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University. Her work is concerned with the relationship between capital, labour and the state and includes studies of labour market change, redundancy, industry restructuring, regulation, and industrial organisation. She has published extensively on the restructuring of the Textiles Clothing and Footwear industries in Australia.

Shelley Marshall is Research Fellow for the 'Partnerships at Work' project of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law and the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation at the University of Melbourne. Shelley has researched and published in the areas of non-profit company regulation and governance, stakeholder theories of the corporation and the labour conditions of outworkers in the textile, clothing and footwear industry.

DATE: Friday 9th March 2007
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Room 224 (Level 2)
Melbourne Law School
RSVP: Charlotte Morgans
Tel: (03) 8344 8924
Email: c.morgans@unimelb.edu.au

A Light lunch will be served