

# About the F23AC declaration

Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a multi-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

#### When to use this form

Enterprise agreements are agreements made at the enterprise level that contain terms and conditions of employment.

Enterprise agreements can be varied:

- under section 207 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> (the Act) in general circumstances by the employer and employees
- under sections 216A and 216B, section 216C, and sections 216D and 216DB of the Act respectively to add an employer and employees to a supported bargaining agreement, cooperative workplace agreement or single interest employer agreement
- under section 216E of the Act to remove an employer and employees from a multienterprise agreement, or
- under sections 217, 218 or 218A of the Act respectively to remove an ambiguity or uncertainty, on referral by the Australian Human Rights Commission, or to correct or amend errors, defects or irregularities.

A variation made by an employer and employees (including a variation under section 207) has no effect unless it is approved by the Fair Work Commission (the Commission).

This form provides information to assist the Commission to determine whether to approve a variation of a multi-enterprise agreement under section 207 of the Fair Work Act 2009. This form can be used if:

- you are an employer that is covered by the agreement (or an officer or authorised employee completing this form for an employer)
- a Form F23 Application under section 210 for approval of a variation of an enterprise agreement has been or is being lodged with the Commission
- the agreement proposed to be varied is a multi-enterprise agreement, and
- the employer requested **on or after 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it.

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If the employer(s) requested **before 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it, you will need to complete Form F23AA instead of this form.

If the agreement proposed to be varied is a single-enterprise agreement and the employer(s) requested **on or after 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it, you will need to complete Form F23AB instead of this form.

#### What is covered in this form

Part 1 – Details of the employer, employees and the agreement

Part 2 – Requirements for approval

Part 2.1 – Informing affected employees of bargaining for the variation and their capacity to be represented

Part 2.2 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to consider the variation

Part 2.3 – Explaining the terms of the variation

Part 2.4 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to vote on the variation in a free and informed manner

Part 2.5 – Sufficient interest and sufficiently representative

Part 2.6 – Voting on the variation

Part 3 – The better off overall test and National Employment Standards

Part 3.1 – The better off overall test

Part 3.2 – The National Employment Standards

Part 4 – Statistical information

# What you may need when completing this form

When completing this form, you will be required to provide information about the variation and the steps taken before the variation was made. To assist you to answer these questions, it would be useful to have available:

- a copy of any material provided to employees about the variation, such as explanatory material
- records of the dates and steps that were taken during the variation process, such as details
  provided to employees about when and how the vote was to occur
- a signed copy of the variation
- a copy of the agreement as proposed to be varied

• a copy of the relevant modern award/s for comparison with the agreement as proposed to be varied.

# How to lodge and serve your completed form

1.	within 14 calendar days after the variation is made, you must lodge with the Commission:
	This declaration and
	Copies of any materials provided to employees to explain to them about bargaining for the variation and their capacity to be represented for the variation (see questions 6 and 7) <b>and</b>
	Copies of any materials used to explain to employees the terms of the variation and the effect of those terms (see question 9) <b>and</b>
	Copies of any materials used to ensure the explanation was provided in an appropriate manner taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of the relevant employees (see question 10) and
	Copies of any materials provided to employees to notify them of the time and place at which the vote was to occur and the voting method to be used (see question 11)
	Copies of any written agreement to the employer requesting that employees vote on the variation (see question 14.1)

You can lodge your form by post, fax or email, or in person at the <u>Commission office</u> in your state or territory.

- 2. **As soon as practicable** after this declaration is lodged with the Commission, you must **serve a copy** of this declaration and any supporting material upon:
  - each other employer that is covered by the agreement and
  - each employee organisation that is covered by the agreement.

## Where to get help

#### **Commission staff & resources**

Commission staff cannot provide legal advice. However, staff can give you information on:

- Commission processes
- how to make an application to the Commission
- how to fill out forms
- where to find useful documents such as legislation and decisions
- other organisations that may be able to assist you.

The Commission's website <a href="www.fwc.gov.au">www.fwc.gov.au</a> also contains a range of information that may assist.

# Throughout this form



This icon appears throughout the form. It indicates information to help you complete the form.

You will find further useful information in the Information Sheet at the end of this form.

Fair Work Act 2009, s.210; Fair Work Commission Rules 2013, rule 25 and Schedule 1

This is a declaration in support of an application to the Fair Work Commission under section 210 of the *Fair Work Act 2009* for approval of a variation of an enterprise agreement under Part 2-4 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, where the employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation.

the variation.		
l,		
[insert name of person ma	sking the declaration]	
[insert postal address of persor	n making the declaration]	
[insert suburb]	[insert State or Territory]	[insert postcode]
[insert occupation of person ma	aking the declaration]	
declare that:		
Part 1 – Details of the emp	oloyer, employees and the agree	ement
1 What is the name of the	employer?	
Legal name of employer		
Employer's ACN (if a company)		
Employer's trading name or registered business name (if		

Employer's ABN

Form F23AC – Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a multi-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

What is the name of the agreement that is proposed to be varied?

2

		Write the name exactly as it appears in the title clause of the agreement and include the Agreement ID/Code Number if known.
3		s the agreement as proposed to be varied cover all the employees of the loyer?
		See sections 211(1), 186(3) and 186(3A) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> . The Commission must be satisfied that the group of employees covered by the agreement as proposed to be varied was fairly chosen.
□ Ye	es	
□ N	0	
varie be sa	d and tisfied	vered <b>No</b> – What group of employees is covered by the agreement as proposed to be what group of employees is not covered? Explain why you think the Commission should that the group covered was fairly chosen. If relevant, describe how the group of covered is geographically, operationally or organisationally distinct.
4		the variation result in employees who were not covered by the agreement g covered by it?
(		See s.211(1A) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> .
□ Y	es	
□ N	0	

	If you answered <b>Yes</b> – Are any of the employers of the employees who will be newly covered by the agreement specified in either of the following:			
	☐ Supported bargaining authorisation			
	Single i	nterest em	nployer authorisation	
5		_	eement as proposed to be varied co ing and construction work?	ver employees in relation to
		proposed that the a	ons 211(3A) and 186(2B) of the Fair Wold to be varied is a multi-enterprise agree agreement as proposed to be varied document and construction work.	ement, the Commission must be satisfied
			3 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> for the defir tion work.	nition of general building and
	l Yes			
	l No			
Part 2 – Requirements for approval				
			• •	
			g affected employees of bargaining e represented	for the variation and their
	сара	acity to be	g affected employees of bargaining	
Pá	capa Desc	acity to be	g affected employees of bargaining e represented	ffected employees that:
Pá	Desc Desc a. the	acity to be cribe the st	g affected employees of bargaining e represented teps the employer took to inform the a	ffected employees that:
Pá	Desc Desc a. the	eribe the stee employe the covera  See section 188B(3)(a	g affected employees of bargaining e represented teps the employer took to inform the aris bargaining for a proposed variation age of the agreement as proposed to be ons 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the Fair W	iffected employees that:  a, and e varied?  Vork Act 2009. Also see section 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009
Pá	Desc Desc a. the	cribe the state employe the covera See section 188B(3)(a and parage beautiful parage what info	g affected employees of bargaining e represented  teps the employer took to inform the arms is bargaining for a proposed variation age of the agreement as proposed to be cons 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the Fair Way of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation	Affected employees that:  a, and e varied?  Vork Act 2009. Also see section 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009 s on Genuine Agreement.  which it was taken. Include details of the step. For example, describe
Pá	Desc Desc a. the	see section 188B(3)(a and parage what informatic	g affected employees of bargaining e represented  teps the employer took to inform the aris bargaining for a proposed variation age of the agreement as proposed to be ons 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the Fair Way of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation graph 1(a) of the Statement of Principle each step taken and state the date on vormation was given to employees at each	ffected employees that:  a, and e varied?  Vork Act 2009. Also see section 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009 s on Genuine Agreement.  which it was taken. Include details of the step. For example, describe toost, and on noticeboards.
Pá	Desc Desc a. the	see section 188B(3)(a and parage what informatic	g affected employees of bargaining e represented  teps the employer took to inform the aris bargaining for a proposed variation age of the agreement as proposed to be an account of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation graph 1(a) of the Statement of Principle each step taken and state the date on wormation was given to employees at each given during meetings, by email or principle and state the during meetings, by email or principles.	ffected employees that:  a, and e varied?  Vork Act 2009. Also see section 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009 s on Genuine Agreement.  which it was taken. Include details of the step. For example, describe toost, and on noticeboards.
Pá	Desc a. the b. of	see section 188B(3)(a and parage what informatic	g affected employees of bargaining e represented  teps the employer took to inform the aris bargaining for a proposed variation age of the agreement as proposed to be cons 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the Fair Way of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation graph 1(a) of the Statement of Principle each step taken and state the date on vormation was given to employees at each ion given during meetings, by email or precopies of any materials that were use	Affected employees that:  a, and  e varied?  Vork Act 2009. Also see section 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009 s on Genuine Agreement.  which it was taken. Include details of the step. For example, describe toost, and on noticeboards.  d to inform employees.

- 7 Describe the steps the employer took to inform the affected employees of:
  - a. their capacity to be represented in relation to the proposed variation, including by an employee organisation or by another representative of their choice, and
  - b. how to exercise that capacity.



See sections 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. Also see section 188B(3)(b) of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraph 1(b) of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Describe each step taken and state the date on which it was taken. Include details of what information was given to employees at each step. For example, describe information given during meetings, by email or post, and on noticeboards.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to inform employees.

Date(s)	Steps taken	Information given

# Part 2.2 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to consider the variation



See sections 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. Also see section 188B(3)(c) of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraph 4 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

The Commission must take into account paragraph 4 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

8.1 Did the employer provide employees entitled to vote on the variation with copies of the variation and incorporated materials in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement?



See paragraph 5 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

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☐ Yes – Go to question 8.2		
□ No – Explain below how the employer provided employees with a reasonable opportunity to consider the variation before voting on it, so that the employees could vote in an informed manner. Then go to question 9.		

- 8.2 Describe the steps the employer took so that, a reasonable time period before the start of the voting on the variation, the employer provided to employees who were entitled to vote on the variation:
  - a. a full copy of the variation, and
  - b. a full copy of any other material incorporated by reference in the variation.



See paragraphs 5 to 7 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement. Paragraph 6 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement says what a 'reasonable time period' includes, and paragraph 7 says how the copies may be provided to employees.

Describe each step taken and state the date on which it was taken.

Date(s)	Steps taken to provide to employees entitled to vote on the variation a full copy of the variation and of any other material incorporated by reference in the variation.

List	the oth	ner materi	al incorporated by reference in the variation (if	any).	
Pai	rt 2.3 –	Explaini	ng the terms of the variation		
9	was	-	ere taken by the employer to explain the terms I and how was the effect of those terms explain		
		take all r	ions 211, 186(2), 188(4A) and 180(5)(a) of the $F_6$ easonable steps to ensure the terms of the varid to the affected employees for the variation.		
		Also see section 188B(3)(d) of the Fair Work Act 2009 and regulation 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009. The Commission must also take into account paragraphs 8 to 14 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.			
(		those te	the steps taken to explain to the employees the rms. For example, describe how the information ther means. Write down the date on which eacl	was given in meetings, by email or post,	
		Also lod	ge copies of any materials that were used to exp	plain the variation to the employees.	
			details of what was explained to the employees. In were explained to employees.	Do not simply state that the terms of the	
	Date(s)		Steps taken	Explanation given	
10	term	s, to the	ployer explained the terms of the variation, an affected employees, what was done to take int and needs of the affected employees?		
(	(f)	must tak	ions 211, 186(2), 188(4A) and 180(5)(b) of the $\underline{F}_{i}$ is all reasonable steps to ensure that the explantate manner.		
		When an	oplied to variations, section 180(6) of the Fair W	ork Act 2009 provides as	

examples of the kinds of employees whose circumstances and needs are to be taken into

account, employees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young employees and employees who didn't have a representative for the variation.

The Commission must also take into account paragraph 14 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Identify the relevant group of employees addressed and their particular circumstances (for example employees from a non-English speaking background or young employees). Describe the steps the employer took to accommodate their circumstances. Write down the date on which each step was taken.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to ensure the explanation to employees was provided in an appropriate manner (if not lodged in response to question 9).

Do not simply state that the employer took reasonable steps to ensure the explanation was provided in an appropriate manner.

Date of step	Step taken	Relevant group of employees addressed

# Part 2.4 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to vote on the variation in a free and informed manner



See sections 211, 186(2), 188(1) and 188B(3)(e) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

#### 11 Describe the steps that were taken to inform employees entitled to vote of:

- a. the time and place for the vote, and
- b. the voting method.

See paragraph 16 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.



Describe how employees were informed about the time and place for the vote and the voting method. For example, describe information given during meetings, by email or post, and on noticeboards. Include the date each of these steps was taken.

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Also lodge copies of any materials that were provided to employees to notify them about the vote.

Do not simply state that the relevant employees were notified by the specified time.

Do not simp	oly state that the relevant employees were notified by the specified time.
Date(s)	Steps taken and information given to employees about time and place for vote and voting method
12.1 Describe the vot	ting process for the variation.
See paragr	aph 15 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.
	ocess used and the method and period of the vote, and explain how all vote were provided with a fair and reasonable opportunity to cast a vote.
	rther steps taken to give employees a reasonable opportunity to vote in a free and informed manner.

#### Part 2.5 – Sufficient interest and sufficiently representative

- 13 Explain how the employees requested to vote on the variation:
  - a. have a sufficient interest in the terms of the variation, and
  - b. are sufficiently representative, having regard to the employees the agreement as proposed to be varied is expressed to cover?

	188B(3)(g) of the Fair Work Act 2009 and paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

#### Part 2.6 – Voting on the variation

- Did each employee organisation covered by the agreement provide the employer with written agreement to the making of the request for employees to vote on the variation?
  - See sections 207A and 240B of the Fair Work Act 2009.
- ☐ Yes Answer question 14.1
- $\square$  No Answer question 14.2
- 14.1 When did each employee organisation covered by the agreement, provide the employer with written agreement to the making of the request for employees to vote on the variation?
- You should lodge a copy of each written agreement with this declaration.

List each employee organisation that provided written agreement and the date on which it was provided.

Employee organisation	Date written agreement provided						
14.2 Did the Commission make a voting request o	rder?						
□ Yes	□ Yes						
□ No							
If you answered <b>Yes,</b> provide the date of the voting	request order and the print nu	mber (PR):					
Date							
Print Number (PR)							
15 Provide the following dates:							
See s.209 of the Fair Work Act 2009							
Event		Date					
The date voting for the variation to the agreement <b>commenced</b> (that is, the first date that an employee was able to cast a vote).							
The date voting on the variation by the employees of the employer <b>concluded</b> (that is, the last date that an employee was able to cast a vote).							
The date the variation was <b>made.</b>							
16 Provide the following details about the vote on the variation:							
At the time of the vote, how many affected employments there?	byees of the employer were						

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	o June 2023 that employees approve t	ile valiation
How ma	ny of these employees cast a valid vote?	
How ma	ny of these employees voted to approve the variation?	
Part 3 –	The better off overall test and National Employment St	andards
be varied of agreement	n requires you to answer questions about how the enterprise agreemen compares to the modern award(s) that cover the employer and employer as proposed to be varied, and how the agreement as proposed to be varied ational Employment Standards in the Fair Work Act 2009.	es covered by the
-	ortant for the Commission to be able to determine whether or not your tive requirements for approval.	variation satisfies
Please atta	ach any supporting material you wish to include in your application.	
Part 3.1 -	The better off overall test	
	See sections 211(3)(ha), 211(4) and 193 of the Fair Work Act 2009.  The better off overall test requires the Commission to be satisfied, as a application for approval of the variation was made, that each award county and each reasonably foreseeable employee would be better off overall agreement as proposed to be varied than under the relevant modern as	vered employee, under the
	the modern award(s), if any, that currently cover the employer and any loyees to whom the agreement as proposed to be varied will apply.	y of the
	You should include the MA number for each award. You can find the M modern awards list page on the Commission's website.	IA number on the
18 Are	any of the employee classifications in the agreement altered by the va	riation?
□ Ye	S	

No

Form F23AC – Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a multi-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

If you answered **Yes** – For each modern award, use the following table to identify how the classifications in the agreement as proposed to be varied correspond to the classifications in the modern award.

moa	ern award.	
Na	ame of modern award:	
Cl	assification in modern award	Corresponding classification in agreement as proposed to be varied
Atta	ch additional tables if there is more than one m	odern award.
Imp	rovements and reductions	
(	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ive) should indicate whether all or only some of some employees are affected, identify the groups clause numbers.
	You may provide a consolidated respons	se to questions 19–25 in a separate attachment.
19	Does the agreement as proposed to be varie employment that are more beneficial than u	<del>-</del>
	Yes	
	No	
-	u answered <b>Yes</b> – Identify how the terms and coed are <b>more beneficial</b> . Include relevant clause i	
20	Does the agreement as proposed to be varie employment that are less beneficial than un	•

Yes

No

-	u answered <b>Yes</b> – Identify how the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be and are <b>less beneficial</b> . Include relevant clause numbers.
21	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of employment that are more beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 17?
	Yes
	No
•	u answered <b>Yes</b> – List the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be varied that <b>nore beneficial</b> than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s).
22	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied provide any entitlements that the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 17 do not provide?
	Yes
	No
-	u answered <b>Yes</b> – List the entitlements provided by the agreement as proposed to be varied that <b>not provided</b> by the modern award(s).
23	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of employment that are less beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 17?
	Yes
	No

•	lu answered <b>Yes</b> – List the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be varied that less beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s).
24	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied omit any entitlements that the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 17 provide?
	Yes
	No
	ou answered <b>Yes</b> – List the entitlements provided by the modern award(s) that are <b>omitted</b> by agreement as proposed to be varied.
25	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of employment different to those under the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 17, which you have not already identified in your answers to questions 21 to 24?
	Yes
	No
If yo	ou answered <b>Yes</b> – List these terms and conditions.
26	Is the employer of the view that the agreement as proposed to be varied passes the better off overall test?



See sections 211(3)(ha), 211(4A) and 193A(3) of the Fair Work Act 2009. The Commission must give consideration to any views relating to whether the agreement as proposed to be varied passes the better off overall test that have been expressed by:

• the employer or employers that are covered by the agreement

- the award covered employees for the agreement, and
- the employee organisation or employee organisations that are covered by the agreement.

□ Yes	
□ No	
Referring to your answers to questions 17–25, explain why the employer is of the view th agreement as proposed to be varied does or does not pass the better off overall test.	e

# Part 3.2 - The National Employment Standards

See Part 2-2, sections 211(3) and 186(2)(c) of the Fair Work Act 2009.



The National Employment Standards are minimum employment entitlements that have to be provided to all employees. Agreements as proposed to be varied cannot exclude or provide for conditions that are less than the National Employment Standards.

27 List all clauses of the agreement as proposed to be varied that deal with the matters contained in the National Employment Standards (NES) and whether they exclude or provide a less beneficial entitlement when compared with the NES.

National Employment Standard	Agreement clause(s)	Does this clause exclude or provide a less beneficial entitlement when compared to the NES?				
Maximum weekly hours			Yes	□ No		N/A
Requests for flexible working arrangements			Yes	□ No		N/A
Offers and requests for casual conversion			Yes	□ No		N/A

National Employment Standard	Agreement clause(s)	Does this clause exclude or provide a less beneficial entitlement when compared to the NES?				
Parental leave and related entitlements			Yes	□ No		N/A
<u>Annual leave</u>			Yes	□ No		N/A
Personal/carer's leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Compassionate leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Family and domestic violence leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Community service leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Long service leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Public holidays			Yes	□ No		N/A
Superannuation contributions			Yes	□ No		N/A
Notice of termination			Yes	□ No		N/A
Redundancy pay			Yes	□ No		N/A
Fair Work Information Statement and Casual Employment Information Statement			Yes	□ No		N/A
you answered <b>Yes</b> in relation to any of the entitlements, you may include an explanation below.						

# Part 4 – Statistical information

	This information is collected to enable the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission to comply with the statutory reporting obligations in s.653 of the Fair Work Act 2009 and to be provided to the Attorney-General's Department for inclusion in the Department's Workplace Agreements Database.
28	What is the primary activity of the employer?
	For example music retailer, plumbing contractor, steel fabricator, etc.
29	Tick the relevant boxes for the states and territories the agreement as proposed to be varied will be operating in:
	Australian Capital Territory
	New South Wales
	Northern Territory
	Queensland
	South Australia
	Tasmania
	Victoria
	Western Australia
	An external territory
30	Of the affected employees, how many employees are in the following demographic groups?
	Demographic group Number of employees
	Female

Non-English speaking background

Aboriginal or Torres	Strait Islander			
Disabled				
Part-time				
Casual				
Under 21 years of a	ge			
Over 45 years of age	2			
31 How many emp	loyees does the employe	r employ in total?		
/ - \	mber of employees may be ho are covered by the agree		•	-
Total number of employer	yees employed by the			
Signature			Date:	
Giving false	or misleading information	is a serious offence.		
A person who knowingly gives false or misleading information or knowingly produces a false or misleading document in support of an application for variation of an enterprise agreemen is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for up to 12 months - see s.137.1 and s.137.2 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> .				
PL	EASE RETAIN A COPY OF TH	IS FORM FOR YOUR (	OWN RECO	RDS

## Information sheet

#### Legal or other representation

Representation is where another person (such as a family member or friend, lawyer or paid agent, or an employee of an employer organisation) speaks or acts on a person's behalf, or assists a person in certain other ways in relation to a matter before the Commission. There is no requirement to be represented at the Commission.

There are some restrictions on representation by a lawyer or paid agent.

Generally, a person must give notice to the Commission (by lodging a Form F53 – Notice that a person: (a) has a lawyer or paid agent; or (b) will seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing) and seek permission from the Commission Member dealing with the matter if they wish to have a lawyer or paid agent represent them by participating in a conference or a hearing.

Apart from participating in a conference or hearing, a person's lawyer or paid agent can represent them without permission, unless the Commission decides otherwise. For example, the lawyer or paid agent can prepare and lodge written applications, responses and submissions with the Commission, and communicate in writing with the Commission and other parties to the matter on the person's behalf.

The requirement to give notice and seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing, does not apply if the lawyer or paid agent is:

- an employee or officer of the person
- a bargaining representative that is representing the person, or
- an employee or officer of an employee or employer organisation, or an association of employers or a peak council, that is representing the person.

Rule 12(2) of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> sets out further exceptions to the requirement to give notice and seek permission.

For more information about representation by lawyers and paid agents, see section 596 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, rules 11, 12 and 12A of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> and the Commission's practice note on representation by lawyers and paid agents.

## **Glossary of common terms**

**Applicant** – This is the person or organisation that is making the application.

**Better off overall test** - The *better off overall test* requires the Commission to be satisfied, as at the time the application for approval of the variation was made, that each award covered employee, and each reasonably foreseeable employee would be better off overall under the agreement as proposed to be varied than under the relevant modern award.

**Lawyer** – This is a person who is admitted to the legal profession by a Supreme Court of a State or Territory.

**Paid agent** – In relation to a matter before the Commission, is an agent (other than a bargaining representative) who charges or receives a fee to represent a person in the matter.

**Party** – A party is an Applicant, a Respondent or another person or organisation involved in a matter or case that is brought to the Commission.

**Respondent** – The person or organisation responding to an application made by an Applicant.

**Service** – Serving a document means giving a copy of the document to a person or organisation, usually to the other party to the matter. You can serve a document in a number of ways, including by email, fax, express or registered post, or in person. Parts 7 and 8 of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> deal with service.

#### **Privacy**

The Commission collects the information (including personal information) provided to it in this form in order to deal with the application for approval of variation to the agreement. The information will be included on the case file, and the Commission may disclose this information to the other parties to this matter and to other persons. For more details of the Commission's collection, use and disclosure of this information, please see the <a href="Privacy notice">Privacy notice</a> for this form, or ask for a hard copy to be provided to you.



**Remove this cover sheet** and keep it for future reference – it contains useful information.