Professor Ian Harper  
Chairman Australian Fair Pay Commission  
Locked Bag 35003  
Collins St West  
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Professor Harper

I am writing to you with respect to the submission by the Northern Territory Government to the Australian Fairpay Commission's 2009 Minimum Wage Review.

The Northern Territory Government submits that low paid workers should not be disadvantaged, and that increases to low paid and minimum wage dependant workers, are considered with that of the broader economic environment to ensure that the needs and job security of these vulnerable workers and their families are not neglected.

The Northern Territory, by comparison to other state jurisdictions has greater reliance on federal funding. It is therefore consider, in the context of the current economic situation, that it would be premature of the Northern Territory Government to make a specific submission on adjustments to minimum wages prior to the handing down of the May 2009 federal budget.

The Northern Territory Government seeks to reserve its right to make a further and more detailed submission to the Review, addressing the Commission’s key objective of promoting the economic prosperity of the people of Australia, after the outcome of the May federal budget at which time the Australian Government’s fiscal policy intentions will be clear and their forecasts of the prospects for the Australian economy will be available.

Should you have any queries with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Theo Tsikouris Northern Territory Workplace Advocate on (08) 89239304.

Yours sincerely

Ken Simpson  
Commissioner for Public Employment  
23/3/09