Dear Professor Harper

Re: Australian Fair Pay Commission 2009 Minimum Wage Review

I refer to the Australian Fair Pay Commission’s (AFPC) 2009 Minimum Wage Review Process.

The Tasmanian Government endorses in full the submission lodged by the Victorian Government in respect of the 2009 Minimum Wage Review.

The Tasmanian Government re-iterates its support for a fair and effective safety net of minimum wages and entitlements that is subject to a regular and transparent process of review and submits that the AFPC should provide an economically sustainable increase to low wage earners by increasing the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) and all Pay and Classification Scales consistent with current national and global economic conditions.

The Tasmanian Government supports the proposition put by the Victorian Government that no new empirical evidence has been produced since the last minimum wage review to show that reasonable, moderate and predictable increases to minimum wages have an adverse impact on employment.

That Tasmanian Government would submit that the AFPC should recognise that regular minimum wage increases provide the only form of upward earnings mobility for a large group of workers who are unable to obtain wage increases through negotiation under the current Industrial Relations system.
That Tasmanian Government also supports the proposition that the AFPC should not take into consideration proposed changes to minimum wage setting functions that may occur when the Specialist Division of Fair Work Australia begins operation from 2010 as they are outside of the APEC's statutory functions.

Yours sincerely

Michael Stevens
Deputy Secretary

23 March 2009