25 March, 2002

The Hon. Justice Giudice
President
Australian Industrial Relations Commission
Nauru House
80 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Fax No: (03) 9650 3354

Dear Justice Giudice,

Re: Living Wage Case

Please find enclosed the ACTU’s reply to the Commonwealth’s most recent correspondence on the issue of TRYM and MYEFO.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW WATSON
Senior Industrial Officer
25 March 2002

Ms Linda Lipp
Assistant Secretary
Wages Policy Branch
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Fax No: (02) 6121 6867

Dear Ms Lipp,

Re: Living Wage Case

I refer to your letter of today's date.

The ACTU wishes to test the veracity of evidence on which the Commonwealth relies. In these circumstances we believe we have a right to insist on the provision of an appropriate witness for cross-examination re TRYM and MYEFO. Having unsuccessfully sought to clarify these matters in correspondence we do not believe we have any option but to require that you provide such a witness.

The Commonwealth's "clear and unequivocal answers" consist of a refusal to clarify the nature of inputs into wages growth equations (your reply of 20 March concerns the AENA figure which is as we understand it an output) and a refusal to provide standard errors for the MYEFO predictions. We note that this follows last year's refusal to provide details re standard errors. These and other matters need to be clarified and it for this purpose that cross-examination will be undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW WATSON
Senior Industrial Officer