

# Put yourself in their shoes

Children as young as 14 years old are signing AWA individual contracts under the Coalition Government's IR laws. .



The Howard Government must be held accountable for these laws.

Get involved. Visit the IEU website or the Your Rights at Work website and make a difference.

[www.ieu.org.au](http://www.ieu.org.au)  
[www.rightsatwork.com.au](http://www.rightsatwork.com.au)

According to previously unreleased official Government figures 598 AWA individual contracts were signed by children under the age of 15 from July last year until May 2006, including many under the new IR laws.

Another 7,779 individual contracts were signed by children aged between 15 and 18 years old and a further 13,269 individual contracts were signed by young workers aged 18 to 21 over the same period.

The figures show thousands of young Australians are now signing individual contracts that are no longer subject to a 'no disadvantage test'.

Under the new IR laws AWA individual contracts can legally remove award protections like rest breaks, meal breaks, public holiday, weekend and overtime pay without any compensation for workers.

The Government's workplace agency (OEA) has admitted that 40% of AWA individual contracts registered under the new laws get rid of rest breaks and 63% of AWAs scrap penalty rates and annual leave loading and half get rid of shift allowances, overtime loadings, skills payments and public holiday pay.

These statistics show a generation of Australians are growing up with fewer rights as a result of the Coalition Government's IR laws.

Parents, grand-parents and teachers have every right to be shocked and concerned about the highly vulnerable situation that young people now face as they enter the workforce for the first time.

AWAs APPROVED FOR YOUNG WORKERS - JULY 2005 - MAY 2006

AWAs Approved <15 yrs: 598

AWAs Approved 15-18yrs: 7,779

AWAs Approved 18-21 yrs: 13,269

Total: 21,646

Source: OEA data supplied to Senate Estimates Committee Qn no. W206-07