

Put yourself in their shoes

Twenty young 'trolley boys' in rural NSW
sacked without protection because of
WorkChoices laws



The Howard Government must be held accountable for these laws.

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A labour hire firm has sacked already low-paid workers in an effort to further reduce costs.

The 20 trolley boys who were summarily dismissed in late May by a Melbourne labour-hire company, Xidis Pty Ltd, trading as Effective Supermarket Solutions, are among those least able to defend themselves from such behaviour by an employer.

The workers collected trolleys at 3 Centro supermarkets in and around Albury NSW. Some of these young workers had been paid as little as \$9 an hour – less than the minimum wage.

Xidis, through another company, has now hired at least six replacement trolley boys, five originally from Sudan and one from Iraq. The living conditions of these workers in a group house in Albury have been a matter of concern to the local St Vincent de Paul Society.

Some of the sacked trolley boys got their jobs through a community organisation, Personnel Employment, that places mentally and physically handicapped people into work.

Because the company is incorporated the sacked boys cannot take their case to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission. Because the company has less than 100 employees, the boys cannot claim unfair dismissal with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

This is not the only example of either this company or other trolley companies exploiting young workers.

The Howard Government's laws however permit unfairness in the workplace.

The only real 'fairness test' will be the test to remove these unfair laws by removing the current federal government.

These are the most vulnerable workers in our community. The Howard Government's WorkChoices laws leave these workers and other young workers unprotected. Put yourself in their shoes