

Dinner Discussion

Tony Abbott MP
Paddy McGuinness: Quadrant
Ken Phillips: Institute of Public Affairs

“The Morality of Workplace Reform”

Wednesday 10th October - Sydney
The American Club, Level 15, 131 Macquarie St Sydney

2 course dinner with coffee and pre-dinner drinks; \$65
(additional drinks may be purchased at bar prices)
6pm for pre-dinner drinks. 7pm start.

Bookings essential

Andy Poon (Institute of Public Affairs) - (03) 9600 4744 - apoon@ipa.org.au
Level 2, 410 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

Reform to workplace laws was initiated in the Keating years but has become a policy signature of the Howard government particularly since the 2004 election. In the build up to the 2007 election workplace reform laws are at the centre of the political debate. The reforms are strongly criticized by unions and labour academics along with a formidable grouping of Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches to name some. The business and political defenders of the reforms primarily argue the economic benefits of more jobs, lower inflation and higher economic growth. The critics mount moral arguments alleging lack of fairness and the exposing of weak and vulnerable workers to exploitation when unions are not at the centre of labour law. For critics it involves social justice issues often as defined by Christian ethics.

In this joint *Quadrant*–Institute of Public Affairs dinner discussion, three speakers will challenge the moral arguments mounted against the reforms. Do Christian ethics require that unions be institutionally secured under labour laws? Should labour laws assume that employers are morally neutered? Do employees have a duty to join collective bargaining? Is community weakened by a focus on the individual under labour laws? These are the sort of questions the three speakers will consider.

Tony Abbott MP is the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing. He was Workplace Relations Minister 2001-03. His major legacy to workplace reform is the workplace laws reforming the construction sector as recommended under the Cole Royal Commission.

Paddy McGuinness is editor of *Quadrant* and has long been one of Australia's leading economic journalists, controversialists and public intellectuals.

Ken Phillips is the director of the work reform unit of the Institute of Public Affairs, a frequent newspaper columnist and author of *Independence and the Death of Employment*.

For Additional Guests:

First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Company:.....Position:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

For Additional Guests:

First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Company:.....Position:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

(Please attach information for any additional guests)

Additional Requirements and Information:

Cancellations are non-refundable however substitutions may be made at any time.
Please attach details of any dietary requirements to this form.
The IPA will not provide any information obtained in this form to any other party.