From: Mark Pasquale
To: "Mark Pasquale";
Subject: Re: SPAAL Security E News - ACT GOV MEDIA RELEASE] ENHANCED ACCESS TO WORKERS RIGHTS INFORMATION FOR SECURITY INDUSTRY
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Attachments: ACT Security Industry Amendment Bill 2010.pdf

ENHANCED ACCESS TO WORKERS RIGHTS INFORMATION FOR SECURITY INDUSTRY

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Section: Simon Corbell, MLA | Media Releases

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, will today introduce a bill into the Legislative Assembly which gives workers in the ACT security industry better access to information regarding their workers rights.

The *Security Industry Amendment Bill 2010* would require new security workers to undertake training about basic rights like sick and holiday leave, pay rates and occupational health and safety rules for employees.

"Knowledge is a powerful tool and by ensuring that these workers have better access to information about their rights and obligations in the workplace, before they start employment, they will be more confident to deliver high quality security services in the ACT," Mr Corbell said.

"Typically the security industry presents problems in relation to workers rights because employees often work in isolation, have shorter meal breaks and access to employee organisations is not always direct.

"While most security operators in the ACT do the right thing, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that all workers in this industry have direct access to employee organisations that outline rights and entitlements.

"The Government has conducted consultation with key stakeholders over the past few months, to assure both employers and employer's organisations that this amendment does not require anyone to join a union.

"It simply means that employee organisations have the ability to provide information at the beginning of employment."

The legislation does specify that information on rights and entitlements is expected to be able to be given in sessions of under an hour and at a convenient, central location. Existing licence holders will only be required to meet the requirement on renewal of their licences, and only have to attend a single session, once.

"To ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the new law Government will review the operation of the amendments after 12 months of operation," Mr Corbell said.

I have attached a copy of the ***Security Industry Amendment Bill 2010*** for your information. N.B. Applies only to applicants for an employee licence (to patrol, guard, watch or protect property; act as a bodyguard and act as a crowd controller)

Regards

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