



**Media Release
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Church body seeks meeting with Minister over workplace laws

The Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (ACCER) has sought a meeting with the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations to outline its concerns with the government's proposed workplace laws.

ACCER Executive Officer Mr. John Ryan said today that ACCER is concerned about the proposals and their impact on the working relationship between employers and employees.

“Any change must be evaluated in terms of its effect on the balance between employer and employee, on the needs of the business on the one hand and the needs of workers and their families on the other,” he said.

“If there is an imbalance then an unfair situation can arise for either the employer or employee.”

ACCER has previously opposed the exemption of small business from unfair dismissal laws but has said that improvements can be made to the regulations. It has also been actively seeking greater rigor in the setting of the minimum wage so that the needs of workers and families to live with dignity are taken into account.

“A fair system of workplace relations provides for the needs and circumstances of both the employer and employees so that the right decision is made on any matter, and not one made out of economic expediency or industrial self-interest,” Mr Ryan said.

ACCER represents the Catholic Church in national matters concerning industrial relations. The Catholic Church has a strong tradition of social teaching on the employment relationship. It employs over 100,000 workers and has numerous employers in health and aged care, community services, education and parish activities.

John Ryan is available for comment on 03 9614 8644 or Mobile 0417 371 054