

## Facts and Figures to #ChangeTheRules!

The Centre for Future Work is an independent research centre, housed within the Australia Institute, that produces progressive economic research on work, employment, and labour markets. We are a unique centre of excellence on the economic issues facing working people: the future of jobs, wages and income distribution, skills and training, sector and industry policies, unions and industrial relations, the role of government, public services, and more. We develop timely and practical policy proposals to help make the world of work better for working people and their families. Our research is a valuable tool for trade unionists campaigning to #ChangeTheRules!

*Highlights of our recent research (all available at [www.futurework.org.au](http://www.futurework.org.au)):*

### Penalty Rate Cuts: Where's the Jobs

**Boom??:** One year after the first cut in Sunday penalty rates in retail and hospitality, we analysed the latest jobs numbers from the ABS. Far from spurring a jobs boom (as employers promised), under lower penalty rates these sectors have shown among the weakest job-creation of any industries.

### Wage Increases Beat Tax Cuts Any Day:

The Coalition government admits that wage increases are the weakest in postwar history. But their solution is tax cuts: focused on high-income households and larger companies. More failed trickle-down economics can't solve the wages crisis. Our analysis of the federal budget showed an average worker would get 11 times more net income from restoring normal wage gains, than from Scott Morrison's tax cuts.

**Dimensions of Insecure Work:** Standard jobs – with permanent full-time hours and normal entitlements (like holidays and superannuation) – have been disappearing for years. Our research showed that, for the first time, less than half of Australian workers now hold one of these standards jobs. More than half experience one or more dimensions of insecurity: whether part-time, casual, irregular hours, so-called “independent” contractors, gig jobs, and more. In short, insecure work is the new normal.

**Raising the Bar: Government Spending Power and Labour Standards:** Government is the biggest single player in the whole economy. So why doesn't government use its economic footprint to lift labour standards, not suppress them? Our report lists dozens of specific ways they could do that.

Other recent reports have addressed the challenges of “gig” work (showing that Uber drivers, for example, make less than the minimum wage); the impact of new surveillance technology on the privacy of workers; and the economic benefits of paid leave for victims of domestic violence.

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