



The Hon Bill Shorten MP
Leader of the Opposition

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

President Iain Ross
Fair Work Commission
PO Box 1994
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
AWR@fwc.gov.au

Dear President Ross

We write to inform you that if elected on Saturday 18 May 2019, a Shorten Labor Government will withdraw the current Government's submission to the Annual Wage Review, and make a new submission requesting a real wage increase to award rates.

Labor will legislate so that the Fair Work Commission will take into greater account cost of living pressures for Australians on the minimum wage as soon as practicable, however on the first day of Government we will argue through the current Annual Wage Review for a real increase to award rates.

We have made this unprecedented decision on behalf of Australia's workers who rely on the award minimum rates and do it because this government has completely failed to advocate for workers in this country.

At no point in the last six years has this government supported real increases in submissions to the Annual Wage Review. Instead they have provided a slew of arguments which could only be understood to be advocating against real increases.

Since the last election, company profits have gone up 39 per cent – but wages have only gone up 5 per cent. A record number of Australians are working a second job just to make ends meet.

The Liberals want workers' wages to be low and they want them to stay low. Recently the Minister for Finance publicly boasted that low wages were a "deliberate design feature" of their economic plan.

We recognise that the Expert Panel will soon be making and issuing its decision on the Annual Wage Review and this could be very soon after the election.

If Australians decide against six more years of cuts and chaos from a Morrison government and vote for change, a Shorten Labor Government will not delay the pay rise that Australian workers deserve. We want

to emphasise that it in providing a new submission on behalf of the Australian Government, it is not our intention to hold up any increase the Expert Panel may consider making for Australia's workers on 1 July 2019.

The Morrison Government have failed to argue for Australia's workers, and their submission must be replaced.

Yours sincerely



Bill Shorten
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders



Brendan O'Connor
Shadow Minister for Employment and
Workplace Relations

13 May 2019