Regional Economic Development and the new National IR System

Dr Louise Floyd
Why bother about regional interests in employment law?

Think of a mechanic in Far North Queensland:

- Dengue fever – needs thick overalls?
- Heat in summer – heat exhaustion because of thick overalls?
- Types of vehicles - rust
Why bother about regional interests in employment law?

Think about a mechanic in Sydney:

Do they care more about travelling time and distance to work than about dengue fever?

Types of vehicle, training etc.
Why bother about regional issues in employment law?

- Indigenous Australians and stolen wages
- Regional and farm workers
- OHS conditions and eg SCUBA
- Tourist jobs and casualisation/language
- Mining sector employment
- And the list goes on…
The Importance of the Traditional State systems

- The state systems actually made a great contribution to Australian life by protecting and promoting state interests

- Those interests were and are genuine
The value of the states

- Pioneers

- Leave
The value of the states

- President David Hall
- Justice Glen Martin
- Jim Murdoch SC
- Sandy Horneman Wren SC
The value of the states

AWU-Q:

finances donated – for a Queensland purpose?
Problems with the national system

- Once powers are gone, hard to ever rebuild a system?
- No power of veto
- Problem with COAG - Anderson
Problems with the national system

- McJanet
- AFULE
Fixing the problem

- Richard Tracey and the drafting of trade union rules
- Union accountability and state interests
- My article in 2010 Australian Bar Review
Further considerations

- The Western Australian position – Premier Barnett

- NSW and rumblings about OHS – Premier Keneally