

## Dinner Discussion

**Tony Abbott MP**  
**Paddy McGuinness: Quadrant**  
**Ken Phillips: Institute of Public Affairs**

## “The Morality of Workplace Reform”

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Sydney  
The American Club, Level 15, 131 Macquarie St Sydney

2 course dinner with coffee and pre-dinner drinks; \$65  
(additional drinks may be purchased at bar prices)  
6pm for pre-dinner drinks. 7pm start.

### Bookings essential

Andy Poon (Institute of Public Affairs) - (03) 9600 4744 - [apoon@ipa.org.au](mailto:apoon@ipa.org.au)  
Level 2, 410 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

Reform to workplace laws was initiated in the Keating years but has become a policy signature of the Howard government particularly since the 2004 election. In the build up to the 2007 election workplace reform laws are at the centre of the political debate. The reforms are strongly criticized by unions and labour academics along with a formidable grouping of Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches to name some. The business and political defenders of the reforms primarily argue the economic benefits of more jobs, lower inflation and higher economic growth. The critics mount moral arguments alleging lack of fairness and the exposing of weak and vulnerable workers to exploitation when unions are not at the centre of labour law. For critics it involves social justice issues often as defined by Christian ethics.

In this joint *Quadrant*–Institute of Public Affairs dinner discussion, three speakers will challenge the moral arguments mounted against the reforms. Do Christian ethics require that unions be institutionally secured under labour laws? Should labour laws assume that employers are morally neutered? Do employees have a duty to join collective bargaining? Is community weakened by a focus on the individual under labour laws? These are the sort of questions the three speakers will consider.

**Tony Abbott MP** is the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing. He was Workplace Relations Minister 2001-03. His major legacy to workplace reform is the workplace laws reforming the construction sector as recommended under the Cole Royal Commission.

**Paddy McGuinness** is editor of *Quadrant* and has long been one of Australia's leading economic journalists, controversialists and public intellectuals.

**Ken Phillips** is the director of the work reform unit of the Institute of Public Affairs, a frequent newspaper columnist and author of *Independence and the Death of Employment*.

Registration form  
**The Morality of Workplace Reform**

Institute of Public Affairs Dinner Discussion

**Date:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Venue:** The American Club, Level 15, 131 Macquarie St Sydney

**Registration Form and Tax Invoice**

ABN 49 008 627 727

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**Registration:** Please complete and return this registration form to the IPA by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October

Fax: 03 9602 4989                      Email: [apoon@ipa.org.au](mailto:apoon@ipa.org.au)

Post: Level 2, 410 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000

**Full payment is required prior to the event.**

I wish to purchase ..... tickets @ \$65 each

**Payment Options:**

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Cheque for \$..... enclosed, made payable to 'Institute of Public Affairs'.

Please charge \$..... to my     Visa         Mastercard     AMEX\*

Card Number:..... Expiry:.....

\*Card Security Code:.....

Name on Card:.....

Signature:.....

**(This form becomes a tax invoice/receipt upon payment. Please retain a copy for your records.)**

**Registration Details:**

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First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Company:.....Position:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

**For Additional Guests:**

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First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Company:.....Position:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

**For Additional Guests:**

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First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Company:.....Position:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

(Please attach information for any additional guests)

**Additional Requirements and Information:**

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Cancellations are non-refundable however substitutions may be made at any time.  
Please attach details of any dietary requirements to this form.  
The IPA will not provide any information obtained in this form to any other party.