



Office of the Commissioner for  
Public Employment

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# NTPS Bulletin

## THE IMPACT OF WORKCHOICES ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC SECTOR

### Introduction

The Australian Government has introduced new industrial relations laws entitled "WorkChoices". These laws will apply to all workers and employers in the Northern Territory, including departments and employees in the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS). WorkChoices will come into force from early 2006.

### What is WorkChoices?

WorkChoices changes the Commonwealth *Workplace Relations Act* which sets the rules for industrial relations nationally, including the Territory. WorkChoices covers such things as the setting of minimum wages, agreement making, the conduct of employers and unions and the role of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Although the laws have been passed by the Federal Parliament, the associated Regulations have not yet been made.

### What other legislation applies in the NTPS?

Your employment is also governed by the *NT Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, By-laws, Employment Instructions and Determinations as well as the various NTPS awards and certified agreements (the latter often known as EBAs).

### Will my conditions change?

Your conditions of employment under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, By-laws, Employment Instructions and Determinations will continue to apply. Current awards remain in place and all EBAs remain in force until new ones are negotiated.

### What about future EBAs?

It is the Northern Territory Government's policy not to use Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) and for all EBAs to be negotiated collectively with the unions representing NTPS employees in the workplace.

### More information

Further Bulletins will be prepared in the new year when WorkChoices comes into force and the Regulations have been made.

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