

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:



**Queensland
Government**

Department of
Industrial Relations

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
Dickson ACT 2602

Dear Sir

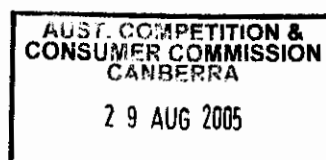
**Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee Inc
Application for Authorisation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for authorisation by the Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee Inc.

The Queensland Government strongly supports the objectives of the Homeworkers Code of Practice and the protection that it provides for outworkers.

Since 2000, Queensland has proactively sought to reduce outworker exploitation and supported other states' efforts to reduce the potential for exploitation of homeworkers in the textile, clothing and footwear industry. The *Code of Practice on employment and outwork obligations, textile clothing and footwear suppliers* was approved by the Queensland Cabinet in late 2000 to prevent the exploitation of outworkers. It is mandatory for Queensland Government agencies and voluntary for the private sector. Along with Victoria's code and the NSW Homeworkers Code, the Queensland code completes a strong network of co-operation between the three eastern seaboard states where the bulk of clothing trades manufacturing occurs in Australia.

In addition, outworkers are protected by awards of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. These awards are supported by the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* which has recently been amended to include mechanisms that facilitate the recovery of unpaid entitlements by outworkers. This amendment was modelled on legislation in place in New South Wales and Victoria, both to provide a consistent framework of legislative protection and to discourage those manufacturers who seek to improve their competitiveness at the expense of employee entitlements.



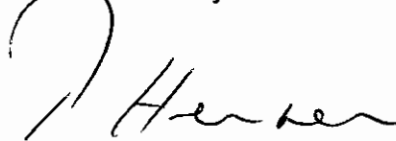
Block B Neville Bonner Building
75 William Street Brisbane
Queensland 4000 Australia
GPO Box 69 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3225 2000
Website www.dir.qld.gov.au
ABN 52 293 849 579

The objectives of all three codes are consistent in their emphasis on lessening the risk of outworker exploitation, providing information to outworkers that helps them understand their legal entitlements and facilitating employers' compliance with statutory obligations. If there is a public detriment in the outcomes that the codes achieve, it may be that prices of Australian-manufactured garments are higher than imported ones. However, the public benefits of fair and equitable treatment of all employees and equal competitiveness of manufacturers that the codes and legislative protection seek to achieve, appear to far outweigh any public detriment that may occur through higher prices for Australian-manufactured garments.

The Queensland Government supports the application for authorisation by the Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee Inc.

If further information on these comments is required, Jeff Michael, Principal Industrial Officer on (07) 3225 2068 will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Henneken', written in a cursive style.

PETER HENNEKEN

Director-General

24/1/2005