



FILE NOTE			
Matter name:	Homeworker Code Committee Incorporated - Revocation & Substitution - A91354 - A91357		
ACCC parties	Tanya Hobbs		
TRACKIT No	50762	File No.	C2013/142
Other parties	Daisy Gardener (DG), Oxfam Australia	Note book Ref.	NA
		Date / Time:	26 March 2013 at 2:39-2:57pm
Phone to <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone from 02 9289 9404 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meeting <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

DG wishes to make a submission in relation to the authorisation of the Homeworker Code Committee on behalf of Oxfam Australia.

DG used to work with FairWear Australia as a coordinator in Victoria. She found that the Code was an important development in the protection of outworkers. During her time as the FairWear Victoria coordinator 2005-2007 there was an ongoing, coordinated campaign involving the Uniting Church, Brotherhood of St Laurence, the TCFUA and others to try and resolve the exploitation of homeworkers. They tried to raise awareness of the situation of homeworkers in the garment industry – many of them migrant women who were being exploited.

DG's experiences:

- The Homeworkers Code was a positive solution to the problem of homeworker exploitation.
- Even though there was existing national legislation to protect homeworkers there was weak compliance.
- DG met with outworkers as part of her role as a coordinator, many were working in poor conditions and/or for long hours. The campaign tried to educate schools and uniform suppliers regarding the poor conditions and encourage them to seek accredited suppliers. The campaign also tried to name and shame unresponsive companies.
- An important detail is that companies which sign up to the Homeworkers Code have to account for their supply chain. In addition, all of the companies in that supply chain then have to show their books – therefore, there is a high level of transparency.
- Since 2007 DG has worked for Oxfam Australia as an advocate for Human Rights in the global supply chain. Oxfam supports Ethical Clothing Australia as a positive example of a mechanism which reduces exploitation of homeworkers. Oxfam promotes the Homeworkers Code overseas as one of the few examples of a Code works to successfully expose garment supply chains and allows the union better access to investigated the treatment of outworkers in those supply chains.

- Oxfam also supports Ethical Clothing Australia by ensuring, for example, that any garments sourced for its campaigns are supplied by accredited suppliers.
- DG understood that accreditation could be expensive for small designers but DG hoped that being on the list of accredited companies would help promote their products. She understood that Ethical Clothing Australia also engaged in some promotion of accredited companies and Oxfam included newly accredited companies in its newsletter.
- DG considered that the new Homeworkers Code was likely to be similar in operation to the old Homeworkers Code, provided that it maintains the fundamental aspects that were present in the old Homeworkers Code (particularly supply chain transparency and the ability for the union to check the books of businesses seeking accreditation).
- Oxfam has previously made submissions to government in relation to the rights and conditions of homeworkers, including supporting the work of Ethical Clothing Australia and the operation of the Homeworkers Code.

TH:

- Thanked DG for her submission.

Signature:	Tanya Hobbs	Date:	09/04/2013
		Time:	2:59pm