

Pfitzner, Laura

From: Phil Endersbee <philip@wildernesswear.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2013 9:17 PM
To: Adjudication
Subject: Homeworker Code Committee Incorporated - Revocation & Substitution - A91354
- A91357 - draft determination

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to make a submission regarding an extract from the draft noted below:

“The application for reauthorisation of the Homeworkers Code of Practice

The Homeworker Code Committee (the Code Committee) sought authorisation for five years to permit the operation of a revised version of the Homeworkers Code of Practice (the Code).

The Code contains a number of measures to do this, including:

yearly compliance auditing of retail signatories’ and accredited suppliers’ supply chains by the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia (TCFUA). This assists businesses to identify and assess the risks associated with sub-contracting practices within their supply chain; “

In fairness to all concerned may I state the following so you have an understanding of my qualifications to make any comments at all on this matter.

- I have been in textile manufacturing and garment make-up for over 40 years.
- I have built factories in China, in Egypt and in Australia.
- I have worked for Pacific Brands for 18 years and was a GM for Holeproof , then spent two years running Fitwear Ltd for Soloman Lew & for the past 20 plus years have built & run my own textile manufacturing operations in Australia.
- I am passionate about making things in Australia. We export to China, Japan, South America, Canada etc.
- Our business is ECA accredited.
- I well understand the important role that Unions play in business and in our community.

I wish to submit that I do feel we are doing an injustice to all concerned in this industry (including the TCFUA) if we do not appoint and maintain an independent register of organisations that are suitably qualified and approved to do the audit work. This can be updated regularly and the register may be kept on the Fair Work Australia website for all to see. Organisations who wish to make an application to be an “Authorised Industry Auditor” may do so through the Homeworker Code Committee and be approved by them.

These organisations are readily available , some are international firms that have offices in Australia and others are local Australian operations. Many of the independent firms who handle the ISO quality audits would be capable of doing this work, and these would be one of many examples.

The specifics on what needs to be audited are quite clear and thus what we should all be seeking is a high degree of independence and transparency.

This is not to say that the TCFUA is incapable of doing the job but I do feel many would feel uncomfortable that the degree of independence that one should expect from such an audit could be afforded to them by the TCFUA.

I trust the above is quite clear however if you wish to raise anything with me on this then please call or email.

Regards,
Philip



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