



# NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Industrial Relations Society of the Northern Territory (IRSNT)

## SECRETARIAT

GPO Box 1292  
DARWIN NT 0801

E: [info@irsnt.asn.au](mailto:info@irsnt.asn.au)  
W: [www.irsnt.asn.au](http://www.irsnt.asn.au)

## 2010 COMMITTEE

### President

Naomi Porrovecchio

### Vice-President

Deevya Desai

### Immediate Past

#### President

Samantha Miles

### Secretary / Public Officer

Amy Griesbach

### Treasurer / Assistant Secretary

Christina Petriwskyj

### Committee Members

Erina Early  
Wendy Coleman  
Sandra Lovaas

### Secretariat Officer

Johanna Clark

### Patron

Commissioner Brendan  
Eames (retired)

**NOTE:** The views of the contributors are not necessarily those of the IRSNT.

## From the President's desk

Welcome to our October issue of the IRSNT newsletter. We are gearing up for our Convention on 15 October. I urge you, if you have not already done so, to register as places are filling up quickly! We have fantastic speakers again this year from a range of academic, union and employer backgrounds. We are particularly delighted to secure Nicholas Wilson, Fair Work Ombudsman, as a guest speaker. As always, we owe a lot to our fabulous sponsors this year, the Fair Work Ombudsman, Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and AustralianSuper.

IRSNT will be launching our new website in October. A big thank you to our wonderful Secretary, Amy Griesbach. Amy worked hard to ensure that the Society now has a professional and user friendly website.

See you all at the Convention!



*Naomi*

## IRSNT ANNUAL CONVENTION 2010

**Thursday, 14 October 2010**

5:30pm

Cocktail Reception @ Parliament House

**Friday, 15 October 2010**

8:30am—4:30pm (registration from 8:00am)

Convention @ Darwin Central Hotel



**A fair go for all?**

Confirmed speakers include:

- ◆ Clare Martin—Professorial Fellow, CDU
- ◆ Alan Nankervis—Associate Professor of Human Resources Management, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- ◆ Nicholas Wilson—Fair Work Ombudsman
- ◆ David Peetz—Professor of Employee Relations, Griffith University
- ◆ Georgina Murray—Associate Professor, Griffith University
- ◆ David Sweet—Partner, Cridlands MB

6:30pm—late

Pre-dinner drinks and Gala dinner @ The Waterhole restaurant (Darwin Central Hotel)

To register, visit our website [www.irsnt.asn.au](http://www.irsnt.asn.au)

Members \$400, Non-members \$550

Cost includes Cocktail Reception, Convention and Gala Dinner.





## Commentary on Workplace Laws

Since the announcement of the new government, critical commentary on workplace relations policy during this term has been sparse. However, the workplace spokesman for the opposition, Mr Eric Abetz, has blamed Labor for a slight rise in industrial disputes.

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported that for the year to June 2010, data indicates that in the first 12 months of Labor's Fair Work Act there were 39 more industrial disputes and 300 more working days lost than in 2009. Further, it has reported that "in total, there were 126,500 working days lost in the year to June 2010, up from 126,200 the year before. Working days lost are calculated by multiplying the number of days lost by the number of employees involved."

Senator Abetz has commented that "the ABS figures show that there has been a steady and constant rise in industrial disputes since Labor came to office and this trend seems to be continuing".

The Coalition has been careful not to contradict its stance during the election that it would make no changes to Fair Work if it formed government. Workplace relations was also avoided as an election platform. The Coalition did not release a detailed workplace policy during the election.

In return, a spokesman for Workplace Relations Minister Simon Crean said the ABS data was "evidence the Gillard government's Fair Work system has got the balance right" arguing that there had not been the "massive breakout in industrial disputes" predicted by the Coalition.

The Sydney Morning Herald has noted that "the spokesman pointed to data that showed the strike rate in the three months to June 2010 was half that of the same period a year ago. But strike activity was higher in the December and March quarters."

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 3 September 2010

### IRSNT Membership

Benefits include:

- Subscription to the "Journal of Industrial Relations"
- Discounted rates for all IRSNT events and seminars
- Opportunity to network with other IR practitioners
- Support of a great NT institution!

New members welcome, please forward this newsletter onto your networks.

Membership application forms are available on our website:  
[www.irsnt.asn.au](http://www.irsnt.asn.au)

Members are invited to email in newsletter contributions or seminar topic suggestions.

Your feedback is also important to us, whether it be good or bad, so that the society can continually strive to offer a valuable membership.

[info@irsnt.asn.au](mailto:info@irsnt.asn.au)

## NEW IRSNT WEBSITE... coming in October

Check it out at  
[www.irsnt.asn.au](http://www.irsnt.asn.au)

- ⇒ Membership registration online
- ⇒ Payments online
- ⇒ Live IR news feed
- ⇒ Events Calendar
- ⇒ Easy navigation
- ⇒ Plus much more!



Much appreciation to local NT web company

**captivate**  
.com.au