



All RTBU MEMBERS:

- Nov 30 rallies a major success

30 November 2006

Today's rallies and marches across Australia in support of fairer workplace laws were an overwhelming success.

Reports are still coming in but it's estimated that around 300,000 workers and their families - including hundreds of RTBU members - exercised their right to protest against the Federal Government's unfair workplace laws. Highlights from the national MCG broadcast included:

- Powerful speeches from the ACTU's Sharan Burrow and Greg Combet setting out how and why these unfair laws will be defeated. Click on their links below:

<http://www.actu.asn.au/Campaigns/YourRightsatWork/Speechesopinionreportssubmissions/YourRightsatWorkWorthVotingForAdresstothenationaldayofactionagainsttheGovernmentsIRLaws.aspx>

<http://www.actu.asn.au/Campaigns/YourRightsatWork/Speechesopinionreportssubmissions/YourRightsYourFutureAddressstonationaldayofprotestagainsttheGovernmentsIRLaws.aspx>

- Opposition leader Kim Beazley's passionate commitment to tear up WorkChoices and introduce laws that make workplaces fair for all Australians
- moving stories of everyday workers who have been hurt by the Government's laws
- classy MC action from Corrine Grant, Casey Dovonan's amazing Aussie anthem and hilarious turns from comics Dave Hughes and Gerry Connelly (aka HRH the Queen)
- some serious rock 'n' roll from Jimmy Barnes.

QLD: In Brisbane more than 15,000 people gathered at Southbank in the city to demand fair workplace laws. The Brisbane rally is being followed by a fun-fair featuring music dancing and fine food. In regional Queensland thousands of workers and their families turned out at rallies including: **Gladstone** (5000), **Rockhampton** (5000) **Cairns** (1000) **Ipswich** (3000).

NSW: In Sydney there were more than 50,000 protesters at two huge meetings at Darling Harbour and Belmore Park. After the broadcast both groups marched into the city joining up to rally in the CBD. In Newcastle more than 4000 people turned up at Energy Australia stadium. Meanwhile at one of the biggest rallies ever seen in Wollongong, over 7000 people turned out at WIN stadium.

ACT: Around 3,000 rallied at Manuka oval before marching to Parliament House.

TAS: More than 2500 people rallied in cold but clear weather in Hobart.

VIC: The main event at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) was attended by about 70,000 people and broadcast to dozens of venues in every state and territory. The great turnout in the MCG came despite three Melbourne train lines being out of action.

SA: Despite the extremely hot weather (30 degrees at 7am!) 30,000 people hit the streets in the city of churches. The rally was followed by a free concert featuring local bands like Poetikool Justice and Lord Stompy.

NT: It was typically hot and humid in Darwin where more than 2500 people gathered at the Darwin Turf Club. It was a very mixed crowd with supporters from 8 to 80 years old enjoying the MCG broadcast and kids activities.

WA: It was a lovely day in Perth, with lots of colourful characters, including stilt walkers and gamelan drumming. Around 6000 people turned out.

Where to next? *There is one clear and strong message we can all take away from the success of the national day of action - the only way to change these unfair laws is through the ballot box at the next federal election. Between now and then unions, individuals, community and church groups will continue to campaign in the cities, suburbs and regions - talking to people about the importance of the Your Rights At Work campaign.*