

# *Industrial relations reforms 2005: Where to next?*

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## **ABSTRACT**

One feature of the Federal election campaign was the almost absence of industrial relations as a campaign issue. However, post the election and with a coalition majority assured in both houses of parliament, industrial relations reforms have been propelled into the forefront of the priority list by the government for its new term. In this process, the government has been assisted by the constant suggestions from the media that industrial relations reforms are the key issue to be addressed in the new term. In this article we seek to examine the following issues associated with the proposed changes to industrial relations legislation:

- a. the language and rhetoric of industrial relations discussion found in the media, post election
- b. what business groups are requesting and suggesting with respect to industrial relations
- c. what the government has suggested as its priorities with respect to industrial relations
- d. the premise and foundations behind these proposed reforms
- e. on what criteria the reforms should be subsequently evaluated

