



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION RESTAURANT AND CATERING ASSOCIATION TASMANIAN BRANCH

Wage Freeze for low paid

In its final minimum rates determination, the Fair Pay Commission has decided to freeze the wages of low-paid, pay-scale-dependent workers.

AFPC chair Professor Ian Harper said it was the wrong time to risk the jobs of low-paid Australians, so the federal minimum wage would remain at \$543.78 a week and Australian Pay and Classification Scales would remain unchanged.

Unions were seeking an increase of \$21 increase in pay scale wage rates, lifting the Federal Minimum Wage to \$564.78 week (\$14.86 an hour).

Industry groups urged the AFPC to put wage rises on hold until there are better indications of the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on small and medium businesses

This decision is the fourth and last determination on minimum rates of pay, the Fair Pay Commission will no longer exist under the Fair Work Act, which sets up a minimum wage panel within Fair Work Australia to set minimum rates.