

26 May 2015

Ms Deborah Jeffrey
Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: [REDACTED]

Our ref

Dear Research Director

Industrial Relations (reintroduction of fairness) Bill 2015

I refer to you email of 25 May 2015, and note that the Society appreciates the opportunity to comment further on this Bill.

In relation to the clause 25 of the proposed Bill, I note that the Society reiterates its previous submissions and remains of the view that denying a right to legal representation will likely result in an imbalance in circumstances where experienced advocates or legally qualified decision-makers litigate against unrepresented and inexperienced parties.

I note that the Committee also enquired as to the Society's views on the 'cascading' options presented by the Bar Association of Queensland. The Society has now had the opportunity to consider the Bar Association's submission, and notes that whilst the Bar's position represents a compromise with some merit, it will not in the Society's view address the issues raised by the Society. Even with the Bar Association's suggested alternatives in place, the inequities identified by the Society will persevere and ultimately compromise the administration of justice.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Michael Fitzgerald

President