

## **Business to profit from taxpayers money on the PaTH to insecure jobs.**

The Turnbull Government's PaTH \$4.00 per hour internships may be illegal, and offer ambiguous health and safety protections and no access to federal workers compensation. The program is little more than a source of free labour for business that undermines job security for all Australians.

For all the rhetoric of "jobs and growth" the \$751.7 million PaTH program does not guarantee one single secure job for the more than 800 thousand Australians currently looking for work. In fact, the program is a job killer.

Under the PaTH program, the Turnbull Government will pay businesses \$1,000 for every unemployed worker that they take on as part of a 12-week internship -approximately 300 hours of work.

Unemployed interns will be paid \$100 per week by the Government for their labour – \$4 for each hour of work. Employing these 'interns' costs employers nothing, and in fact generates profit through the \$1000 upfront payment. This program creates an incentive for companies to hire PaTH interns at the expense of workers in real jobs earning minimum wage.

Existing casual workers, already vulnerable to the kinds of abuses exposed in the 7-11 scandal, are particularly likely to be the victims of this blatant undermining of the minimum wage.

If young people are employed at the end of their 12-week internship, the PaTH program provides employers with a lump sum of up to \$10,000. However, employers will still receive this lump sum if they hire these unemployed workers as a trainee, apprenticeship or under a labour hire arrangement, which is an unregulated industry.

While there are more than 800,000 people unemployed in Australia, when you include the hidden unemployed and the people who are underemployed that number balloons to 3 million who are either looking for a job or looking for more work. Right now, there are 18 underemployed or unemployed people for each job vacancy. 40% of the workforce is also in insecure work.

Australia needs a plan for the future, not the Turnbull Government's PaTH to nowhere. The Government needs to reassess its priorities and if there is a real commitment to "jobs and growth" abandon the PaTH to insecure work and fund measures that will create secure, decent jobs Australians can count on.