



FAIR WORK  
COMMISSION

# A WORKPLACE RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

This is the second lecture in a series of lectures that will take place in 2013. The series has come about through the collaborative efforts of the **Fair Work Commission** and the **Centre for Employment & Labour Relations Law** at the Melbourne Law School.

## THE AMBIGUITIES OF WORKPLACE COOPERATION

Cooperation in the workplace is an important topic—it is a major object of the *Fair Work Act 2009* and widely considered to be central to the promotion of productivity at an enterprise level. Workplace cooperation, however, is an ambiguous concept that is rarely defined with clarity and used interchangeably with related terms like collaboration, partnership and direct engagement. Moreover, the values of individual commentators and stakeholder groups inform how these terms are used. The presentation will therefore explore the meaning of cooperation, arguing that a key issue distinguishing the different approaches is the role given to employee representation. This account will then be used to shed light on recent contributions to Australian public policy and academic discourse.

## SPEAKER PROFESSOR MARK BRAY

Professor Mark Bray has held the Foundation Chair in Employment Studies at the University of Newcastle since 1997. He is currently part of a research team (along with Dr Johanna Macneil, Dr Sarah Oxenbridge and Professor Andrew Stewart) working with the Fair Work Commission on a project entitled “Improving Labour Productivity Through Co-operative Workplace Relations: A Proactive Role for Industrial Tribunals in Australia?”. He has published widely on industrial relations, most recently a forthcoming paper co-authored with Professor Stewart in the *Australian Journal of Labour Law* entitled “What is Distinctive about the Fair Work Regime?”.

## EVENT DETAILS

**DATE** Friday 24 May 2013, 1:00pm–2:00pm (a light lunch will be available from 12:45pm)

**PLACE** Room G08 (ground floor)  
Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053

**RSVP** 17 May 2013 to [law-celrl@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-celrl@unimelb.edu.au)



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