

# ALLA 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

## The Regulation of Work in a 'COVID-normal' World

11-12 November 2022, Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach

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Abstracts are invited for the Australian Labour Law Association's 11th biennial conference to be held at Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach, Sydney on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 November 2022.

The conference theme is 'The Regulation Work in a COVID-normal World'. This year's conference will be held towards the end of the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, amidst the backdrop of a cautious return to some semblance of normality as businesses and workers move from the 'lockdown' phase to attempting to 'live with COVID'. The adjustment to 'COVID-normal' has also coincided with a resurgence in the notion of 'freedom of contract' in the employment sphere and a retreat by the courts from the task of moderating unfairness resulting from a disparity in bargaining power.

The implications of the High Court's decisions in *CFMMEU v Personnel Contracting Pty Ltd* and *ZG Operations Australia Pty Ltd v Jamsek* and the focus on the formal terms of the contract at the time of formation will be central to discussions about the 'COVID-normal' world of work.



**Professor Douglas Brodie** from the University of Strathclyde will be joining the conference in person to present a keynote address which examines the approach of courts in the United Kingdom in light of these significant decisions.

The wider implications of these and other developments for the regulation of work will be explored at the conference, including hybrid working, the (non-)return to offices and other in-person workplace settings, ongoing working-from-home arrangements for many workers, and the position of large proportions of the workforce for whom working on-site has remained a constant throughout the pandemic.

We welcome abstracts for papers relating to a wide variety of topics examining legal, analytical, empirical, theoretical, critical and policy research into labour law, including but not limited to the following sub-themes:

- The High Court of Australia's 'rewriting of the rules' relating to determining the nature of work contracts (employee/independent contractor distinction, definition of 'casual')
- The regulation of casual employment (including the High Court's approach, 2021 Fair Work Act amendments, Victorian Government's sick pay guarantee scheme)
- Post-federal election landscape for labour law/workplace relations
- Workplace equality in a COVID-normal environment
- AI's impact on work: recruitment, surveillance, gig work
- Wage stagnation, the contraction of enterprise bargaining, and the post-pandemic position of unions and industrial action
- Work health and safety in the COVID-normal work context and more broadly
- Underpayments, enforcement and wage theft legislation

# ALLA 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## The Regulation of Work in a 'COVID-normal' World

ALLA invites practitioners, judges, tribunal members, administrators and academics to submit papers for presentation on the conference theme, sub-themes or any other areas of labour law.

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and will be accepted until 11 July 2022. [Abstracts can be submitted via the portal.](#)

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Conference papers may be eligible for the following prizes. See our website for [prize rules and eligibility](#). Please note that only on-time paper submissions will be considered for these prizes.

### PHILLIPA WEEKS PRIZE

Recognising the contribution of Professor Phillipa Weeks to Australian labour law scholarship and her support of young and upcoming scholars, this prize is awarded for the best paper presented by an early career academic or research higher degree scholar.

### DOMINICA WHELAN PRIZE

Named in honour of the late AIRC, FWA and Federal Circuit Court member, Dominica Whelan, this prize is awarded for the best paper presented by a practitioner working or practicing in the area of labour law.

### ALLA RESEARCH DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to provide financial assistance for research degree scholars to take part in and present a paper at the ALLA biennial national conference.

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For more information contact:

- Renee Burns, ALLA administrator: [law-alla@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-alla@unimelb.edu.au)
- Dominique Allen, ALLA Secretary: [dominique.allen@monash.edu](mailto:dominique.allen@monash.edu)
- Anthony Forsyth, ALLA President: [anthony.forsyth@rmit.edu.au](mailto:anthony.forsyth@rmit.edu.au); (03) 9925 0962
- Janine Smith, ALLA conference committee member: [JSmith@codea.com.au](mailto:JSmith@codea.com.au); (02) 8226 7311



The 2022 conference organising committee consists of Anthony Forsyth, Dominique Allen, Janine Smith, Marilyn Pittard, Joellen Riley Munton, Graham Smith, Emma Goodwin, Larissa Andelman and David Chin SC.

The Australian Labour Law Association's 2022 National Conference will celebrate the 20th anniversary of ALLA's first conference, held in Melbourne in 2002. We will mark this important milestone in several ways at the conference.

[www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alla](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alla)

