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29th October 2008



## EVENT UPDATE

### Announcing the release of the second Australia At Work report:

#### [Working Lives: Statistics and Stories](#)

This second report forms part of a five year study of over 8000 Australian workers. Earlier this year, interviews were conducted providing representative data on the labour force. Statistics however, only tell you so much and further in-depth interviews were conducted.

So what did Australians have to say about their working on the eve of the financial crisis?

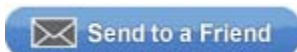
- 17% (representing 1.6 million workers) were finding it difficult to manage their household income, while 39% (3.8 million workers) were just coping.
- The majority (85 per cent) of workers said they had debts such as mortgages and credit cards.
- 1 in 5 said they could not make their repayments on time, representing around 1.9 million workers.

The report has also found that:

- The 'standard' employment has deteriorated.
- Employees are still nervous about bargaining individually with their employer
- Almost 1 million employees in Australia still want to be a member of a union.

To find out more, [download the report for free](#) on the [Workplace Research Centre website](#).

The first report, the 2007 [Australia at Work: The Benchmark Report](#), is also available.



**Also, your *last chance* to attend a WRC Course in 2008!**

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***Essential Employee Relations***

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***9am - 5pm,  
18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November***

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