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Independent Contractors Australia

2 Million self-employed; their interests are our interest



Official Report Shows Sham Contracting Minor

Hi

It's pleasing to see that the official report by Australia's Fair Work Ombudsman into the incidence of 'sham' contracting shows the problem is relatively minor.

During this year, the FWO targeted 102 businesses (in low-paid, low-skilled sectors). it profiled them as likely to be engaged in sham contracting. However, since 2007, only 4 sham contracting convictions have occurred with 6 prosecutions underway and pending court decisions.

Given that there are 2.1 million self-employed people in Australia the amount of sham contracting is low. However it's certainly common enough to warrant the FWO continuing its investigation program and initiating education. We've put together a [summary of the report](#) and commented on the FWO's approach and the bias against contracting that it displays.

ICA strongly supports efforts to stop sham contracting where it occurs. However, to keep things balanced, there need to be laws against 'sham employment'. Legislation, government institutions, unions and human resource managers all have a bias forcing independent contractors into employment. This is a sham on a grand scale that should be stopped. In fact, one ICA member has written to us complaining about the Tax Office [forcing people into employment](#).

The right of people to be self-employed, to be their own boss is constantly under attack from the most powerful of institutions.

Regards

Ken Phillips and the
Team at Independent Contractors Australia

www.contractworld.com.au

PS: Want to debate whether employment is dead or alive? Join myself and Peter Strong for a pub discussion in **Melbourne 30 November at 6.30pm, 2-course dinner, \$45**. Come and challenge us. It should be fun! [Booking details](#).

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