This issue of the Economic and Labour Relations Review is devoted to an examination of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Act 2005 (Cth). Contrary to popular opinion, Work Choices does not mean deregulation but a shift from an independent umpire to executive and political regulation of workplace relationships. The analysis presented in this issue gives an excellent insight for all, including unions, employers and employees, as to the ways in which Work Choices affects them.

The articles in this issue provide a broad overview of the Act as well as critical commentary on the historical and ideological context of the legislation, the use of the corporations power as the basis of the legislation, minimum working conditions, the newly created Australian Fair Pay Commission, agreement making, Australian Workplace Agreements, collective bargaining and industrial action, implications for unions and unfair dismissal.

This is the first analysis of its kind of the newly implemented Work Choices and an essential read for anyone in employment in Australia.

To order a copy of the Work Choices Special Edition of The Economic and Labour Relations Review please email the Industrial Relations Research Centre at the University of New South Wales at irrc@unsw.edu.au.