

# WorkChoices last stand

## *Thiess pushes dodgy agreement, Rhodes workers sacked*

Construction company Thiess has sacked four workers who rejected a deal which would have forced them to take annual leave if machinery broke down and stripped them of rostered days off in exchange for a one per cent pay rise.

The company told the workers at they were being laid off because of a downturn of work, however, it has since emerged that the workers were replaced by labour-hire workers, including backpackers. All four sacked workers have young families to support.

Under new work laws which came into effect on 1 July 2009, Thiess would have been obligated to undertake good faith negotiations with workers and their chosen representatives. Until that date, Thiess was under no obligation to undertake good faith negotiations.

It is clear from Thiess's actions, the company was trying to push through their substandard agreement before the new work laws took effect.

The CFMEU (Construction Union) strongly condemns Thiess's attempts to bully workers into accepting a substandard agreement. The CFMEU is calling on Thiess to reinstate the workers who have been sacked and to enter into good faith negotiations with the workers and their representatives.

We are also calling on the federal government to take action to protect all workers from sub-standard WorkChoices-style agreements.

## **What you can do to help:**

Call Thiess Services Remediation General Manager Doug Moss and Thiess Services Executive General Manager Michael Wright and politely ask for the Rhodes workers to be reinstated and for the company to enter good faith negotiations:

**Doug Moss:** (02) 9881 9700

**Michael Wright:** (07) 3169 8300

**Email:** [info@thiess-services.com.au](mailto:info@thiess-services.com.au)

Call the Federal Member for Lowe John Murphy and ask the Government to take action against WorkChoices-style agreements:

**John Murphy MP:** (02) 9745 4433

**Email:** [John.Murphy.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:John.Murphy.MP@aph.gov.au)