

Activities you can do!

Schools can

- Become a "No Sweat School" by signing the Statement of Commitment from the FairWear School Kit to ensure that uniforms are made sweat-free by workers paid fair wages
- Have no uniform days to educate about homeworkers, distribute information on the issue provided by FairWear and raise funds

Teachers can

- Use FairWear resources, such as this DVD, in educational curricula to raise awareness of the issue for students and colleagues as consumers
- Encourage schools to sign the Statement of Commitment
- Lobby for school uniform suppliers to accredit to the Code or for the school to change to an ethical supplier
- Assist students in organising creative events
- Join the FairWear School group and help distribute updates

Students can

- Educate about the issue in your school and liaise with other schools campaigning on homeworkers
- Organise creative events – such as the fashion parade in this DVD – to raise awareness and fundraise for FairWear
- Lobby for using an accredited supplier for your end-of-year school shirts
- Protest with actions outside retail stores to capture media attention
- Change where you buy your clothes
- Join the FairWear School group for actions and updates

Parents can

- Lobby for school uniform suppliers to accredit to the Code or for the school to change to an ethical supplier
- Assist students in organising creative events

Thanks to staff and students at Marian College, Sunshine, Melbourne VIC. DVD by Ben and Jocelyn Pederick benjaminpederick@graffitti.net 0412 949 695

FairWear

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"A brand I used to wear a lot, I now know exploit outworkers and I look at the clothes... the stitching, and it must have taken so long to do and they probably earned nothing for it. It has really changed the clothes that I buy and the things that I look at."

Student – Marian College Sunshine, Melbourne VIC



FACT SHEET

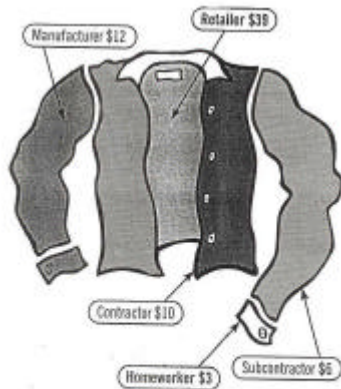


What is the Issue?

In Australia, homeworkers (outworkers) make clothes for suppliers of school uniforms, retailers, designers and corporate wear.

- It is estimated that there are 300,000 homeworkers in Australia.
- Recent studies and monitoring show that these homeworkers are mostly women who make clothes at home for average of \$3.60 an hour and as little as 50 cents an hour. The standard award wage is \$12.50 an hour.
- They often work up to 18 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Contract Chain



Shirt costs you \$70

"The reality, it is an economic reason. People can't have access to jobs and education, They take what they can get to survive. And outwork is what a lot of women do to support their family to survive."

Annie Delaney - FairWear

"These companies know they are big and they know that they are going to sell their clothes, so they don't care about who the workers are..."

"Plus it is affecting the workers' health. They have to work lengthy hours and not get paid much at all, so it is a sacrifice they have to make."

Students – Marian College Sunshine, Melbourne VIC

"Outworkers need the schools to speak out for them. Even now, outworkers do not have their rights yet. Unless the school does something with the company, nothing will change."

Hong Nguyen - Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union (TCFUA)

Why Should Schools be Involved?

"It is a local problem, even though people don't think it is. I go for walks sometimes around my suburb and I see some people in their garage with massive amounts of sewing machines and lots of clothes and they are just sewing away." "A lot of immigrants ... in the Western suburbs and they tend to be targeted for being exploited."

Students – Marian College Sunshine Melbourne VIC

- Children often help their parents after school and into the night.
- School Uniforms are a significant component of the local clothing industry.
- Uniform suppliers are likely to respond to concerns from school communities about the conditions in which their garments are made.
- Awareness of unfair work practices in our communities is a relevant issue for parents, students and staff.

What can Schools do?

There are several activities that students, parents and teachers can do. These activities are based around the work of FairWear and getting retailers, manufacturers and suppliers in the garment industry in Australia to participate in the

Homeworkers Code of Practice.

The Code is an industry wide agreement helping to eliminate the exploitation of outworkers.

The Code ensures that the supply chain is transparent from the retailer to the homeworker and that workers receive their legal wages in Australia. Once accredited, manufacturers can use the No Sweat Shop label (pictured above) in their clothes.



More information on the Code can be found at

www.nosweatlabel.com

A list of participants to the Code can be found at

www.fairwear.org.au

