From: Stephen Smith <Stephen.Smith@aigroup.com.au>

Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:37 PM

To: AWR

Subject: AWR Research Program

We refer to the Commission's invitation to comment of the Draft Research Program for the Annual Wage Review 2020/21.

Due to the limited resources available for the AWR Research Program, it is important that research be tightly focussed on matters directly relevant to minimum wages and the incomes of low wage employees.

Given the Expert Panel's consistent recognition of the importance of considering changes to the broader social safety net when assessing the quantum of minimum wage increases, the various COVID-19 support measures are relevant. It would be worthwhile for the research to consider the impact of COVID-19 support measures on: (1) incomes for low wage workers; and (2) the number of low wage workers.

Yours sincerely

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