

A Fairer Start

Sustainable & Inclusive Work Working Group

Focus: Insecure work and vulnerable workers

COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the problems of insecure work and the prevalence of vulnerable workers in our communities.

RMIT has strong research capability focused on addressing these issues. The Fairer Start - Sustainable and Inclusive Work working group brings together researchers whose work focuses on vulnerable workers

an insecure work. This includes research on labour conditions of precarious and vulnerable workers in supply chains, including domestic supply chains; low-paid casual and insecure work in care work and the social services sector; exclusion from work of people with mental health issues, young people and people from LGBTQI+ communities.

Working Group Highlights

1. A project proposal Proactive Community Outreach for Sustainable and Inclusive Work for Vulnerable Workers was developed for consideration for Victorian Government funding, including four industry partners.

- Got through to the final round of funding consideration.

2. A Roundtable on Sustainable and Inclusive Work for Vulnerable Workers focused on the problem of vulnerable workers in Victoria, bringing together speakers from community and industry body with key knowledge and experience working with vulnerable groups.

Speakers: Gabrielle Marchetti, JobWatch, Jenni Smith, Northern Community Legal Centre, Shelley Mallett, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Miriam Thompson, Cleaning Accountability Framework.

- Attended by 55 people from RMIT and outside.

- Generated ideas for services and initiatives to reach vulnerable workers.

- Solidified partnerships.

3. A Sustainable and Inclusive Work Working Group Report on Vulnerable Workers will be published and disseminated in late February.

- Highlights impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable workers.

- Brings together research and policy proposals of academic researchers and partners.

- Proposes how existing and new services could better advise and assist workers and employers.

Working Group

Co-Convenors: Shelley Marshall, Director, Business and Human Rights Centre, Graduate School of Business & Law.

Fiona Macdonald, School of Management, Centre for People, Organisation and Work.

Members: Lena Wang, Micaela Cronin, Marnie Badham, Anna Urbanowicz, Renata Kokanovic, Louise Byrne.