



# DETERMINATION

*Fair Work Act 2009*

Sch 1, cl 111C—FWC to vary certain modern awards

**Variation of modern awards to include a right to disconnect term**  
(AM2024/14)

**METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPERS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND  
TASMANIA) PRINTING AWARD 2015**  
[MA000130]

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JUSTICE HATCHER, PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT ASBURY  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT O'NEILL  
COMMISSIONER MCKINNON

SYDNEY, 23 AUGUST 2024

*Variation of modern awards to include a right to disconnect term – Fair Work Legislation  
Amendment (Closing Loopholes No. 2) Act 2024 (Cth) – award varied.*

A. Further to the decision issued by the Fair Work Commission on 23 August 2024  
[[2024] FWCFB 338], the above award is varied as follows:

1. By inserting clause 26A—Employee right to disconnect as follows:

## **26A. Employee right to disconnect**

**26A.1** Clause 26A provides for the exercise of an employee's right to disconnect under  
section 333M of the [Act](#).

NOTE:

- (a) Section 333M provides that, unless it is unreasonable to do so, an  
employee may refuse to monitor, read or respond to contact, or attempted  
contact, from:
- (1) their employer outside of the employee's working hours,
  - (2) a third party if the contact or attempted contact relates to their  
work and is outside of the employee's working hours.

- (b) Section 333M(3) lists matters that must be taken into account in determining whether an employee’s refusal is unreasonable.
- (c) Section 333M(5) provides that an employee’s refusal will be unreasonable if the contact or attempted contact is required under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory.
- (d) Section 333N provides for the resolution of disputes about whether an employee’s refusal is unreasonable and about the operation of section 333M.
- (e) The general protections in Part 3–1 of the [Act](#) prohibit an employer taking adverse action against an employee because of the employee’s right to disconnect under section 333M of the [Act](#).

**26A.2** Clause 26A applies from the following dates:

- (a) 26 August 2024—for employers that are not small business employers on this date and their employees.
- (b) 26 August 2025—for employers that are small business employers on 26 August 2024 and their employees.

**26A.3** An employer must not directly or indirectly prevent an employee from exercising their right to disconnect under the [Act](#).

**26A.4** Clause 26A.3 does not prevent an employer from contacting, or attempting to contact, an employee outside of the employee’s working hours in circumstances including to notify them of a recall to work under clause 30—Call back.

2. By updating the table of contents and cross-references accordingly.

B. This determination comes into operation on and takes effect from 26 August 2024 in accordance with clause 111C of Schedule 1 to the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth).



PRESIDENT

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