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Low paid women to lose the most from dumping of superannuation rebate

Sales assistants, checkout operators and food preparation assistants are set to bear the brunt of the Coalitions attack on superannuation.

A bill, which overturns the superannuation rebate along with the mining tax and other spending measures including the School Kids Bonus and the Regional Development Fund - passed the House of Representatives last night and has now moved to the Senate.

ACTU president Ged Kearney said workers will be negatively affected if this Bill passes the Senate. "These workers, the majority of who are women, cannot afford a cut to their superannuation savings."

"Just the superannuation aspect of this Bill alone will hurt 3.6 million workers who are set to lose \$1 billion each year," she said.

"The majority of these low income earners – 2.1 million – are women who collectively will be \$500 million worse off in 2013-14 alone," she said.

"Every other week a new report is released confirming that women are getting paid less, losing opportunities and retiring in poverty."

"It's the Government's role to try and fix this issue not to shrink the retirement savings of workers who already will not have enough."

"There is no doubt that this push will exacerbate what is already an unacceptable situation where women retire on just 64 per cent of a man's retirement savings."

"This is another example of a policy that is against the interests of workers. The Government is making no secret that they will protect big business at the expense of workers."

Ms Kearney said there were large pockets of the workforce who should be deeply concerned about the repeal of the superannuation rebate.

"Unions are very worried about the outcomes for workers under a Government who doesn't think twice about cutting retirement savings for low paid workers and women who have spent their lives juggling work and caring for others."

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Following on the next page is a list of occupations that will lose most from the scrapping of the superannuation rebate.

Occupations That Will Lose Most From The Scrapping of the Superannuation Rebate

The 20 occupations which have the largest number of workers currently benefitting from the Low Income Superannuation Contribution.

Occupation	Number of people estimated to lose	Percentage of workforce
1. Sales assistants and salespersons	218,900	45%
2. Checkout operators and office cashiers	146,000	53%
3. Food preparation assistants	93,500	57%
4. Hospitality workers	89,700	35%
5. Cleaners and laundry workers	83,200	35%
6. Receptionists	57,700	32%
7. General clerks	46,700	17%
8. Miscellaneous labourers	42,900	28%
9. Packers and product assemblers	41,700	33%
10. Food trades workers	40,400	35%
11. Child carers	37,000	36%
12. Freight handlers and shelf fillers	33,000	37%
13. Personal carers and assistants	29,500	12%
14. Electricians	25,600	27%
15. Farm, forestry and garden workers	25,300	45%
16. Bricklayers, and carpenters and joiners	25,100	35%
17. Food process workers	24,100	29%
18. Accounting clerks and bookkeepers	22,000	11%
19. Automotive electricians and mechanics	20,300	21%
20. Storeworkers	18,600	18%