

Business Law

Thursday 17 August 2023

Session 1 – 9.45am – 10.45am

What's new in employment law

This session will cover recent amendments with a particular focus on women in the workforce. The topics will include changes to sexual harassment, systemic discrimination, positive duties, new grounds for discrimination in the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth), equal remuneration, pay secrecy, parental leave and flexible working arrangements. In addition to the substantive changes, the session will also cover the avenues for resolving disputes, including the new Part 3.5A of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) for sexual harassment claims and the Australian Human Rights Commission's new powers to monitor compliance with the positive duty and apply to the federal courts for an order to direct employers to comply with the positive duty.

Meet the speaker

Kate Eastman AM SC, Barrister, New Chambers

Kate Eastman AM SC has over 30 years' experience in dispute resolution and advocacy in a wide range of employment disputes, all aspects of sexual harassment, discrimination and vilification law (employment, services, education, transport and media), public law, education and health law. She is a recognised expert in human rights law (international and Australia). She appears in the High Court, Federal Court, Federal Circuit and Family Court, Fair Work Commission, Industrial Relations Commission and State/Territory tribunals in trials and appeals in matters arising under the Fair Work Act and all Federal/State/Territory discrimination laws. She is instructed by individuals, Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and agencies, for multi-national and Australian ASX 200 corporations, partnerships and small business in a range of matters including internal compliance audits, internal grievance and disciplinary procedures, mediation, advisory work and litigation. Kate regularly appears in mediation and conciliation of complex and multi-party disputes, and acts as an independent investigator and mediator.