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Folau turns to IR lawyer; Professor withdraws court case; & more

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Folau consulting top IR barrister over rugby sacking

High-profile rugby union player Israel Folau has held discussions with leading IR lawyer Stuart Wood QC over options to contest his recent sacking for [posting](#) on Instagram that "hell awaits" homosexuals, drunks and atheists.

The devout Christian's \$4 million contract with Rugby Australia was [officially terminated](#) on Monday after the post was deemed to have been a high level breach of the organisation's [code of conduct](#), which highlights an "inclusive environment".

Folau has until June 10 to lodge an unfair dismissal application in the FWC, while he might also choose to pursue an adverse action case through the Federal Court.

Recently, Wood has acted for Victoria International Container Terminal in its case involving stevedore and former CFMMEU delegate Richard Lunt (see [Related Article](#)), sacked academic and climate change sceptic Professor Peter Ridd (see [Related Article](#)), and former Employment Minister Michaelia Cash in the AWU raids case (see [Related Article](#)).

Wood in this year's Australia Day honours list [received](#) a Member of the Order of Australia for "significant service to the legal profession, particularly in the area of industrial relations" (see [Related Article](#)).

Law School head drops court action

The head of La Trobe University's Law School has withdrawn his Federal Court [action](#) claiming the institution's HR executive over-reacted by suspending him while investigating two colleagues' misconduct allegations.

The law professor/barrister had sought compensation, penalties and declarations that La Trobe's conduct breached grievance and disciplinary provisions in its [agreement](#).

In a [judgment](#) handed down a fortnight ago, Justice Paul Anastassiou revoked interim suppression orders that had protected the identities of the professor and lecturer who made the complaints, observing that the alleged conduct "may, if proven, be found to constitute bullying" (see [Related Article](#)).

It is not known if the Law School head remains suspended.

TWU campaign takes flight

The TWU will tomorrow fire the first shot in what it has described as its "most concerted" campaign ever when members will stage a protest at Cairns airport in support of better wages and conditions

The action in Cairns, currently playing host to the union's national council meeting, follows national secretary Michael Kaine's statement yesterday that the TWU was prepared to stage airport and road freight strikes around the country in pursuit of "sector-wide rates" for 38,000 workers covered by 200 expiring enterprise agreements (see [Related Article](#)).

TWU members will tomorrow also "serve claims" during a meeting with Brisbane Airport, followed by Sydney Airport on Friday and Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide airports in coming weeks.

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