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CAN EMPLOYERS RIP OFF YOUNG KIDS? YES, THEY CAN

Law firm Slater & Gordon has told WorkChoices actor Damien Richardson that the firm cannot assist him.

Earlier today Mr Richardson, who ran a painting business employing young workers, told radio 3AW that he'd be seeking advice from the law firm.

Marcus Clayton, the firm's national head of industrial law, says Slater & Gordon has represented working Australians since 1935.

"Slater & Gordon is opposed to WorkChoices because these are unjust laws that exploit vulnerable workers and protect shonky employers," Mr Clayton said.

"Despite the desperate government advertising campaign that taxpayers are currently paying for, industrial lawyers, unions and the parents of young workers know the truth.

"WorkChoices supports unscrupulous employers who fail to pay young workers their proper entitlements, like wages and superannuation, and who minimise their responsibility to their employees by requiring them to get an ABN and work as sub-contractors.

"It is absurd that a young person can be both an apprentice – thereby allowing their employer to qualify for a subsidy – and a self-employed contractor with their own ABN.

"Many teenagers have trouble just keeping their bedroom tidy let alone setting up and managing their own business – they just want a fair weekly wage.

"Parents of teenagers won't be fooled by these advertisements, and the Workplace Authority has scored an own goal by using an employer as the public face of this expensive TV campaign."