

Embargoed until Thursday June 26

Ethical Clothing Australia
ethicalclothingaustlia.org.au

Unique pop up to showcase how your clothes are really made

Victorian consumers have the opportunity to learn more about different textile, clothing and footwear products that are ethically made in Australia thanks to an exciting new pop-up.

Despite Australia's robust Industrial relations laws, many textile workers, particularly outworkers in the Australian Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Industry, continue to be exploited, with some earning as little as \$10 per hour.

Accreditation organisation Ethical Clothing Australia is hosting a 4-day pop-up, which will showcase more than 20 local manufacturers that can demonstrate their supply chain is compliant, ethical, and transparent from design to dispatch.

National Manager Rachel Reilly says the event is about showing the community what is possible.

"From school uniforms to protective workwear and leather goods, there are already a broad range of TCF businesses here in Australia that have worked with us to get accredited," she said.

"This means they can confidently display their accreditation, knowing they are protecting the rights of the people who make their products, no matter where they work in the local supply chain."

Reilly says there is a great opportunity to expand local TCF manufacturing, particularly in the government and private sector procurement space. However, this cannot be done at the expense of worker rights.

"Australia is home to a great range of TCF manufacturers who deliver high-quality products, and we have a valuable opportunity to make greater use of their capabilities," she said.

"We know that consumers expect that this manufacturing to be done ethically, with close to 60% of respondents in our recent survey telling us that brand transparency around worker protections influences their purchasing of garments or footwear."

"Our accreditation program is critical to demonstrating ethical practices, with close to 100% of our respondents acknowledging that there is a difference between a business conducting its audit and having a third-party independent audit to ensure compliance with relevant workplace laws."

MEDIA RELEASE

The pop-up will be open to the public from Thursday June 26 to Sunday June 29 at 306 – 308 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. It will also feature a range of events to appeal to different audiences, including:

- An information session for businesses interested in becoming accredited
- Students can take part in an interactive experience where they meet ethical manufacturers and learn how their products are made.

ENDS

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