Workers leverage bargaining power to their detriment

One key strategy for unions is to pressure employers to negotiate wage increases through threats of industrial action, such as strikes or work stoppages. This can be effective in forcing employers to meet workers' demands, especially when the economic climate is favourable for workers. However, if these tactics are overused or misused, they can lead to a downward spiral of wages and productivity, as employers become hesitant to negotiate in the future. It is important for unions to balance their negotiating power with a long-term strategy that remains effective and sustainable, ensuring that the interests of workers are protected while maintaining a positive business environment.

Aussie teen in Syrian prison at risk

Yusuf Zahalk, the Australian teenager who is believed to have been killed after Islamic State forces attacked the men’s prison where he was being held, is likely to face increasing pressure from his family and the international community to secure his release. The Australian government has so far refused to negotiate with Islamic State for the release of captured Australians, citing the risk to national security. However, the case of Yusuf Zahalk highlights the importance of diplomatic efforts to secure the release of captured Australians and the need for a more nuanced approach to the issue of capturing and releasing Australians in conflict zones.

Tertiary debt will swell this year

Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt will cost the average HELP borrower $2.7 billion by the year 2021, with a peak of $3.2 billion in 2024. This is due to increased interest rates and the fact that students are taking on larger debts to finance their education. The government is expected to announce a series of measures to address the issue of student debt, including reforming the HELP scheme and increasing the availability of income contingent loans. These measures are likely to cost the government tens of billions of dollars over the next decade, highlighting the need for a long-term approach to the issue of reducing student debt.
National push to safeguard abortion access

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The nation

EXCLUSIVE

A national push to abortion laws has been introduced to place four-month abortion limits in the ACT, with politicians joining forces to strengthen protections for women’s reproductive rights. The proposal aims to ensure that abortion is only available in the first trimester of pregnancy, with up to two doctors required to authorise the procedure. The legislation, which is currently in its early stages, is set to be debated in the ACT’s parliament in the coming weeks. If passed, it could have far-reaching consequences for women’s access to abortion services across Australia. The move is in line with the current stance of the federal government, which has repeatedly called for a national approach to abortion laws. However, the proposal has been met with resistance from some quarters, with concerns raised about its impact on women’s health and autonomy. The proposed legislation seeks to address these concerns by ensuring that the decision to have an abortion is made by health professionals who have the expertise and experience to make such a determination. The legislation also seeks to protect women’s health and safety by ensuring that they have access to all available services and support. The proposed law is also expected to bring about a broader conversation about reproductive rights and choices, which has been lacking in recent years. The proposed legislation has been welcomed by many women’s rights advocates, who have long been calling for a more progressive approach to abortion laws in Australia. They believe that the proposed legislation is a step in the right direction and that it will ensure that women have access to the care they need and the information they require to make informed decisions about their bodies. The proposed legislation is expected to be discussed in detail in the coming weeks, with many stakeholders calling for more input and engagement from the community. The proposed legislation is a welcome step towards ensuring that women have access to the care they need and the information they require to make informed decisions about their bodies.