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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Attack on contractors set to continue at tax chat**

The Gillard Labor Government and union movement assault on the 2 million Australians who depend on independent contracting and self-employment for their livelihoods will continue at next week's tax forum.

Legitimate contracting and self-employed arrangements are set to be targeted again following the ACTU continuing to falsely label these kinds of small businesses as engaging in 'sham contracting' to avoid tax without providing evidence to substantiate this ongoing accusation.

ACTU President, Jeff Lawrence, today continued with his self-serving 'sham contracting' slur and claimed that the Gillard Government was 'receptive' to further action to disadvantage the self-employed and independent contractors.

Despite the clear and calculated union agenda, the Gillard Government has silenced the key advocates for independent contracting and the self employed by failing to invite the Independent Contractors of Australia to the tax forum.

It will be a test for the Gillard Government to see if its deeds live up to the words of the Prime Minister and Bill Shorten, who have claimed that *"helping people to be their own boss, is part of the dream of working people too"* and promised not to *"make life difficult for self-employed working people"* respectively.

A successful campaign before the last election spearheaded by the Coalition forced the Gillard Government to abandon implementing punishing tax law changes but the government and unions have changed tack.

The Fair Work Ombudsman, Australian Tax Office and Australian Building and Construction Commissioner have all already been tasked to target independent contractors and self employed people to force many into union-controlled workplace arrangements.

The last federal budget has also added onerous new reporting and red-tape requirements for independent contractors in the construction sector and cleaners are the next target in sight.

Labor and the unions know it is easier for unions to sign up members in big workplaces, so making it impossible for independent contractors to operate is their plan and this self-serving goal looks set to raise its ugly head again at the tax forum.

Independent contractors and self-employed people work hard and provide a valuable contribution to the economy and in the workplace, and deserve to be supported and not the innocent targets of a Labor-union campaign.

The Coalition will not change the current laws relating to the treatment of personal service income and will resist the coordinated attack of the Gillard Government and union movement on the self-employed.

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