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MEDIA RELEASE

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CFMEU admits independent contractors a target at tax forum

Another day, and another union has signalled independent contractors will be targeted at Julia Gillard's tax forum.

The CFMEU's Dave Noonan has let the cat out of the bag urging the Gillard Government to prioritise its ideological assault on independent contractors at this week's tax forum.

Mr Noonan has called on the government to take action and investigate current independent contracting arrangements and act on steps it has taken already to 'ensure the integrity of the taxation system'.

This follows the ACTU president Jeff Lawrence's self-serving 'sham contracting' slur and claims 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.

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 be 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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