



Combined Small Business Alliance of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)

PO Box 253, JOONDALUP WA 6919

President: Les Marshall

Vice President: Rod Henderson

Secretary/Treasurer: Terry Bright

Chief Executive Officer: Oliver Moon

Administration Secretary/Treasurer: Val South

Phone: 9250 3549

CoSBA WEB SITE: <http://www.cosba.com.au>

Phone: 9306 0155

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TO BE ADVISED

Stirling Small Business Centre, 45 Delawney Street, BALCATTA

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ATTACHMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE.PDF

Small Business - Ministerial_ Responsibility Statement 15.06.2010.docx

WBA Sundowner 2.7.10.pdf

WBA AGM Notice.pdf

Xmas Trading Hours Metro 2010.PDF



COSBA/Small Business - in Parliament

CoSBA's concern regarding the State Government's attitude to small business and the representation of small business has found a strong voice on our behalf in Parliament by the Shadow Minister for Small Business, Ljiljana Ravlich. See the Hansard reporting of her representation in attachment: Small Business - Ministerial_Responsibility Statement 15.06.2010.docx, and the CORRESPONDENCE PDF.

Gillard vows to find new way

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has promised a new direction for federal Labor, including a rethink of the controversial resource super profits tax after declaring that the government had lost its way under her predecessor, Kevin Rudd. *The Fin* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 25.6.10)

Julia Gillard comes from a village called Cwmgwrach, which means 'The Valley of the Witch'

BILL Clinton was lucky to come from a town called Hope, but Julia Gillard has struck out big time on inspirational hometown branding. The new Prime Minister's Welsh roots are in a small village called Cwmgwrach, which means "The Valley of the Witch". We can safely assume that her marketing people will not be copying Clinton's 1992 campaign strategy of calling himself "the man from Hope".

The people of Cwmgwrach in south Wales, are as proud of their strange name as they are of the faraway new Prime Minister. A large sign welcoming people to the village carries a witch symbol, which also adorns the jerseys of the local rugby team and even the uniforms of children at the local school.

The local member of the Welsh Assembly, Labour's Minister for Finance, Jane Hutt, said she saw a kindred spirit in Gillard. To complicate the picture, the local wards on the district council are held by the Welsh nationalists, whose councillor Steffan Wiliam says Gillard "seems to have become Prime Minister because of the incumbent's failure to stick to his promises and to deliver for people". "She's a good socialist and every socialist acknowledges that all nations have a right to self-determination. If she visits we will welcome her as a long-lost daughter of Wales." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Weekend Australian*, 25.6.10)



(SOURCE: *The West Australian*, 25.6.10)

Fears of union revival kick in

THE business community will welcome a new prime minister following a complete souring of relations with Kevin Rudd. There was also a damaging loss of faith in his managerial competence and willingness to consult.

But while business leaders will appreciate Julia Gillard's much greater personal skills and appeal and her openness to discussion, there is considerable nervousness about her policies. In particular, business is apprehensive that she will be more sympathetic to unions and a potential resurgence of union power and greater union influence on economic management.

There is still a feeling that many of the changes to industrial relations laws put in place by Gillard as responsible minister will come back to bite the economy. This reinforces the scepticism about her understanding of the commercial pressures and practices in business - doubts only emphasised by the policy failings evident in effectively managing the stimulus spending on schools. (SOURCE: *The Australian*, 25.6.10)

Forrest: Henry has blood on his hands

Billionaire mining magnate Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest has accused Treasury head Ken Henry of having "blood on his hands" over Kevin Rudd's demise, as he declared the resource super profits tax "dead and buried". *The Australian* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 25.6.10)



(SOURCE: *The West Australian*, 25.6.10)

Mark Latham sees 'knife' in Julia Gillard's future

FORMER Labor leader Mark Latham is predicting Julia Gillard will eventually be "the next one for the knife" because key ALP figures hate her. "(Deputy Prime Minister) Wayne Swan is no fan of hers," Mr Latham told Sky News today, a day after Ms Gillard toppled Kevin Rudd.

"Gillard has, for reasons I never quite understood, enormous animosity from people like (Anthony) Albanese and (Lindsay) Tanner and (Jenny) Macklin." "I don't know what they did down there in the Victorian left in the 80s and 90s but they hate each other." Mr Latham, who lost the leadership in 2005 following Labor's defeat at the 2004 election, said when Ms Gillard's honeymoon in the polls ends "she'll be the next one for the knife ... she needs to watch her back". (SOURCE: *The Australian*, 25.6.10)

Tony Abbott's volley at new foe

TONY Abbott has declared the election "very winnable" and sought to diminish Julia Gillard. He said she represented the same failed policies championed by Kevin Rudd and was instrumental in every bad and unpopular decision the government had made.

The Coalition will unleash a campaign against the Prime Minister that paints her as a leader created by factional bosses and the union movement, and therefore captive to them. The Opposition Leader said that by changing leaders, Labor had acknowledged the main points being pushed by the Coalition on policy blunders. "I think the Coalition's critique of the government has been vindicated," he said. "Julia Gillard herself said this is a government that has lost its way. She has vindicated our position."

But Coalition insiders are furious the opposition has not more strongly prepared a case against Ms Gillard. The Coalition has been divided for months over how to deal with Ms Gillard's rise, with many arguing Mr Rudd should be the focus of attack. After accusations of hubris, Mr Abbott was more cautious than he was in the partyroom, where he was reported to have said the Coalition was within reach of "a famous victory" .

"No election is unloseable, no election is unwinnable. I think this election is very winnable, but we have a long, long way to go," Mr Abbott said yesterday. The Opposition Leader sought to paint the Labor Party as ugly and disrespectful by going after Mr Rudd. "I think a lot of people watching the ugly assassination which has taken place today will be very disillusioned with the Labor Party." (SOURCE: *The Australian*, 25.6.10)

PM throws tax talks wide open

JULIA Gillard has signalled that fundamental elements of Labor's proposed new mining tax are up for negotiation. In her first full day as Prime Minister yesterday, Ms Gillard set the stage to proceed with Kevin Rudd's proposed resource super-profits tax, but established a process for genuine negotiations designed to win mining industry support for the new levy on profits.

Under Mr Rudd's leadership, the government was only prepared to negotiate around the margins of the tax, insisting that the 40 per cent rate and its retrospective application were set in concrete. But yesterday Wayne Swan pointedly declined to lock the government into a 40 per cent rate.

Asked if the whole tax was now on the negotiating table, the Treasurer told ABC radio he would not discuss the scope of the negotiations "except to say that we are committed to a profits-based tax and to getting a fairer share of the value of our mineral resources". (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Weekend Australian*, 25.6.10)

Abbott presents 12-stage program of pledges

TONY Abbott has produced a 12-point policy framework for a Coalition government. The document promises to be tough on asylum-seekers, to save the environment, get the budget back in the black and pay federal bills on time.

Clearly conscious of the kerfuffle caused by his advice to voters that they should only really believe his promises when they were formally scripted, the Opposition Leader has produced an elegant document headed "Our Action Contract" containing 12 "realistic, modest and prudent" election commitments. "This document contains my contract for real action for Australia," Mr Abbott says in its forward. The document says the opposition will campaign on a key question to Labor: "What do you really stand for, and what can you actually deliver?"

Mr Abbott promises to restore the budget surplus in three years, end waste and restore cabinet government, as well as rejecting the resource super-profits tax and ensuring the government pays its bills to small business on time. As well as enforcing strict border security, an Abbott government would set immigration at what fits with the economy and the environment and better manage the Murray-Darling Basin.

Mr Abbott promises to set up local hospital boards staffed by health experts, provide six months' parental leave on full pay, install more security cameras to reduce crime, pay the best teachers more and restore working for the dole. Mr Abbott says, in writing, that he "will not bring back Work Choices".

As well as tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions without "a great big new tax", Mr Abbott says he will set up a 15,000-strong permanent army dedicated to protecting the environment and adjusting to climate change. Mr Abbott's manifesto says the Liberal Party stands for lower taxes, budget surpluses and spending money wisely. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Weekend Australian*, 25.6.10)

PM Julia Gillard promises not to 'milk WA cash cow'

NEW Prime Minister Julia Gillard has promised not to milk WA as a cash cow to look after voters in other states. In an exclusive interview with *The Sunday Times*, Ms Gillard promised WA would be treated fairly in the carve-up of commonwealth spending. "My pledge to Western Australians would be to make sure they get their fair share," Ms Gillard said. "Western Australia is an amazing state - an amazing economic powerhouse . . . I want to make sure that we are helping to meet the infrastructure needs of what is such a great and growing state."

Despite the assurance, she remained adamant that she would not stop changes to GST funding which Premier Colin Barnett warned would leave every West Australian nearly \$200 worse off. "All these GST arrangements are settled through the Grants Commission," she said. "There is a very complex system of working out the finances between the commonwealth and the state, so it's not my intention to embark on changes to formulas or the way the Grants Commission works. "But of course beyond that, there is a question about how we directly fund services that people need, like great schools." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Sunday Times*, 27.6.10)

Gillard snubs small business in re-shuffle

Labor's indifference to small business has continued with the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard refusing to recognise the importance of small business and elevate the Minister responsible, into Cabinet.

In what is most certainly a snub to the small business community, Julia Gillard has failed to follow the Coalition's lead and elevate small business into the senior ministry. The Coalition has committed to put small business into Cabinet if it is successful at the upcoming election. (See attachment: Gillard snubs small business.pdf)

COMMENT: Sounds familiar? Déjà vu, it is clear that both the State and Federal Governments share the same indifference to the needs and aspirations of small business.

Crane operator fined \$8000 for near miss

A crane operator has been fined \$8000 in the Fremantle Magistrates Court over an incident in which a crane collapsed on a construction site, narrowly missing workers. Bruce Edwin Bannister pleaded guilty to two charges - failing to ensure his own safety and failing to ensure the safety of others. The crane did not hit anyone on the site, but one worker had to run to avoid the falling crane.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that safe procedures were extremely important around equipment such as cranes. "Setting up a crane on a solid foundation is one of the fundamental principals of crane operation, but one that was not observed in this case," Ms Lyhne said.

"The crane operator placed himself and another four employees in danger of being injured or even killed by the crane when it fell. If the crane had been loaded, the danger would have been even greater." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 26.6.10)

Employers' wages win upheld

THE right of companies to offset the costs from Labor's award overhaul has been upheld by the nation's workplace tribunal. Employer groups had been alarmed at recent guidelines issued by the Fair Work Ombudsman that suggested companies would require the agreement of individual employees before they could offset costs from the overhaul that operates from July 1.

The Australian Industry Group said the ombudsman's approach would be unworkable and expensive and sought clarification from Fair Work Australia. A full bench of the tribunal yesterday upheld its interpretation of a key clause inserted into the majority of new modern awards in September last year.

"The monetary obligations imposed on employers by this award may be absorbed into over-award payments," the clause says. "Nothing in this award requires an employer to maintain or increase any over-award payment."

The full bench said yesterday the intent of last year's decision was clear. "The intent of the clause is that where monetary obligations increase as a result of the implementation of modern awards, employers should be able to absorb those increases into existing over-award payments," the bench said.

"Nevertheless, the award clause adopted to reflect this intent is confined to the treatment of award obligations themselves, and does not extend to regulating any additional matters in contracts of employment. "There may be some examples of contractual entitlements to over-award payments irrespective of the nature and extent of award obligations. "However, in the vast majority of cases, it is likely no such entitlement will exist. The wording of the clause is permissive, not mandatory, and does not modify the effect of any ongoing entitlement to over-award payments."

The employer application was heard jointly with a union application to phase in changes in overtime penalties under modern awards. This union application was rejected and the overtime provisions remain excluded from the transitional arrangements that phase in higher or lower wage rates, penalties and loadings. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Weekend Australian*, 26.6.10)

Big centres to stay shut under new trading law

There is virtually no chance most of Perth's biggest suburban shopping centres will open on Sundays under the proposed trading laws. In a letter to its members last week, the Shopping Centre Council of Australia, which represents centre owners Centro, Westfield and AMP, described the proposed compromise reform package as "an absurd farce".

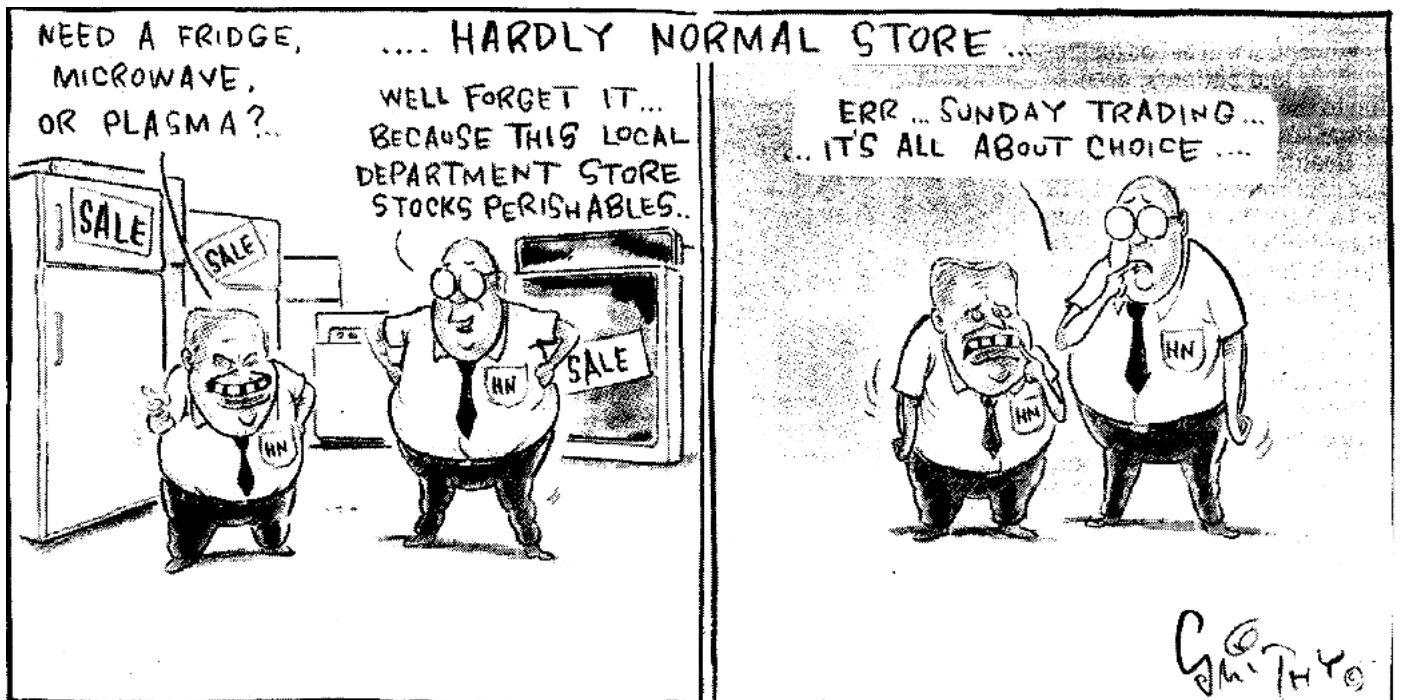
Under a high-level deal reached between Labor and the Liberals, big shops selling "consumer durable goods" will be allowed to trade in Perth on Sundays. Under the deal, the Government must arrive at a precise definition of durable consumer goods after

consultation with Labor and retailers. But the Shopping Centre Council said the new laws would almost certainly prevent the big anchor stores in its centres from opening.

If the ban on non-durable consumer goods survives the negotiation, big stores including Myer, David Jones, Kmart, Big W, Coles and Woolworths will be unable to trade on Sundays unless they partition big areas of their stores from customers. Shopping Centre Council executive director Milton Cockburn said such an exercise would be costly and prohibitive.

"The only way some of those stores will be able to trade on Sundays would be to do a substantial covering-up (of stock)," he said. "Economically, it just wouldn't make sense. Once your anchor tenants, the stores that effectively drag the customers into the centre, are unable to trade, then obviously those centres will be unable to trade."

Shopping centres likely to be closed on Sundays include Garden City, Karrinyup, Galleria and Innaloo. But shopping centres in "tourism precincts" would be allowed to open. Under the banner "WA - silly one day, sillier the next" the Shopping Centre Council's letter said the proposed regime would be more unfair and inconsistent than existing laws. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The West Australian*, 29.6.10)



(SOURCE: MIDLAND REPORTER, 29.6.10)

Crumb! Let a man sell a sanga

Half-baked changes to trading laws will leave shops and customer even more confused.

There is a business operator who wants to open a new site on William Street near the Perth train station. This person wants to offer food - a few pre-wrapped ham and cheese sandwiches, maybe some coffee, even freshly made Turkish bread creations - to the almost 50,000 people who every day walk past this site.

This person wants to open at 7am when people start making their way into the city for a day of work. But under the ludicrous retail trading hours that pass as law in WA, this person cannot partly because of the number of staff they want to employ and for the number of outlets they already operate. In this case, to open his doors to offer someone a sandwich before 8am is against the law.

And to think this bureaucracy that is getting in the way of someone making a buck and someone getting a feed on an early workday morning is just going to get worse. For the retail trading proposals that the Government and Labor have supported are simply going to add another length of red tape to a sector that is crying out for simplicity. That simplicity is not just for the person who wants to run a retail outlet, but also for their customers who are being treated by all parties as little more than children who must be shielded from the bright lights of a shopping mall.

We've also got the crazy situation under the Government-Labor proposals whereby the definition of a product, a durable consumable, will determine if a shop can open or not. Coles and Woolies may not be liked by everyone, but by being effectively banned from opening on a Sunday you take out competition for those which need it (the IGAs and other smaller operators of the world) but also the shopping centres of Perth.

And guess what? A business that doesn't want to open doesn't have to. A shopper who doesn't feel like spending their cash doesn't have to. It's all about choice, a commodity that seems in short supply (along with common sense) in this debate. And it's a small

food outlet in William Street that is at the front line. It is time for the war to end and let the sandwiches and coffee run free. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The West Australian*, 28.6.10)

COMMENT: This is a ludicrous and reprehensible situation for which the Government and Labor are to be roundly condemned, in short this but yet another kick in the guts for small business. Given the Government's poor attitude to small business it is understandable, but for Labor??? Both need their collective heads banged together and told to FIX IT ASAP!!!

Julia Gillard sets deadline to end mining tax war

JULIA Gillard is racing to meet a Friday deadline to settle the damaging dispute over the new \$12 billion mining tax. The resources sector is demanding the new Prime Minister keep her promises to make genuine changes and have "meaningful negotiations" with miners. Both sides agree that if progress is not made by the end of the week, the damaging dispute will be reignited.

With behind-closed-doors negotiations set to resume between ministers and leading miners after Kevin Rudd's removal as prime minister, the mining industry is making it clear it still wants evidence of changes to the resource super-profits tax by the end of the week or the moratorium on the "advertising war" will be lifted.

Senior government members told *The Australian* last night that "real progress is being made" and Ms Gillard had signalled she wanted the dispute, which has damaged Labor's standing in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland, settled as soon as possible. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Australian*, 29.6.10)

Greens threat to mine tax deal

Any Federal Government concessions to win support from the resources sector for its super profits tax could be blocked in the Senate after the Greens warned yesterday they would vote against any deal that delivered a multi-billion-dollar windfall to miners.

In what could be a repeat of the Senate impasse over the emissions trading scheme that was rejected by the coalition and the Greens but for different reasons, Greens leader Bob Brown said the 40 per cent headline rate of the proposed tax should stay.

The West Australian revealed yesterday the 40 per cent rate could be reduced as part of a suite of changes to the resources super profits tax that the Government hopes will appease miners. A deal of sorts with the coal seam gas sector is expected this week but this will not be enough to counter the anger from miners such as BHP, Billiton, Rio Tinto and Xstrata.

But Senator Brown, whose party rejected the ETS for being too generous to bigger polluters, said too many concessions would undermine the thrust of the RSPT. If the Greens oppose the tax, they could combine with the coalition, which has rejected the RSPT outright, to block it. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The West Australian*, 29.6.10)

Forrest steps up pressure on Gillard

Fortescue Metals CEO Andrew Forrest has stepped up pressure on Prime Minister Julia Gillard on the resource super profits tax by releasing details of a compromise reached with her predecessor. In a speech to the Australian Financial Review's WA Economic Outlook Conference Mr Forrest said FMG was one of a number of companies which had been working closely with Kevin Rudd's office in the days before he was ousted and achieved a position on the handling of the RSPT which was to be released to the mining industry.

Mr Forrest said the revised position included an immediate write-off for new capital; increasing the uplift rate from 6 per cent to 15 per cent; reducing the impact of retrospectivity by doubling the value of existing capital recognising a transition to a new tax regime; moving the taxing point for projects to the point of mineral extraction; and the removal of the 40 per cent government guarantee.

He said Ms Gillard must ensure her Government achieves a substantially improved position on aspects of the RSPT compared to Mr Rudd. "It would be a great shame if the finalised outcome of any negotiations between the Gillard Government and the mining industry were anything less than what was achieved while Mr Rudd was PM, otherwise his departure will be recognized as futile," he said. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 29.6.10)

Barnett tells miners be wary of Gillard

Premier Colin Barnett says mining companies should continue talks on the proposed resource tax but be careful dealing with a caretaker prime minister. Julia Gillard has promised fresh negotiations on the resources super profits tax and there are signs the government might bend on key elements such as the 40 per cent rate and six per cent threshold.

Talks with miners continuing: Swan

The federal government is holding "good faith" talks with the mining industry over the proposed resources tax that

will continue over the rest of the week, Treasurer Wayne Swan says. Mr Swan said that he and Resources Minister Martin Ferguson had been talking to a wide range of individuals and organisations.

"We will continue to do that as we go through the rest of the week," Mr Swan told reporters in Canberra. Pressed on how the negotiations were progressing, Mr Swan said: "We are not into megaphone diplomacy here, we are sitting down in good faith discussing matters with a wide range of people."

Mr Barnett has been a critic of the proposed tax since it was announced in early May. "Obviously there's going to be changes. From day one this was a badly thought-out proposal, the case was never made for a new mining tax," he told reporters in Perth. "The flaws are throughout the proposal and the consequences were just misunderstood and underestimated by the federal government. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 29.6.10)

Resource deal near as rate shifts

JULIA Gillard is hoping to settle the damaging dispute with Australia's biggest mining companies today, after two days of intense negotiations in Canberra and a shift by the government on the previously non-negotiable 40 per cent rate of the new resources tax. *The Australian* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 1.7.10)

Mining tax options split business

Business has split on the federal government's threat to abandon some of its promised tax reforms to reach a compromise on its resource tax, heightening pressure on Prime Minister Julia Gillard to avoid giving major concessions to mining executives on negotiations. *The Australian Financial Review* SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 1.7.10)

Gillard sets stage for early poll

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has prepared the ground for a snap election by announcing a limited cabinet reshuffle that ensures policy continuity but highlights the government's new look by excluding former leader Kevin Rudd. *The Australian Financial Review*. (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 30.6.10)

FWO Best Practice Guides

The Fair Work Ombudsman has produced Best Practice Guides to assist small to medium-sized businesses to implement best practice initiatives. Working at best practice helps employers and employees achieve happier, fairer and more productive workplaces.

The Best Practice Guides provide guidance on important workplace issues. The guides highlight key aspects of the federal workplace relations system, information on best practice concepts, strategies on how these concepts can be implemented, the benefits for the business in doing so and where to find more information.

The Fair Work Ombudsman also has fact sheets that cover a range of topics and set out minimum rights and responsibilities under workplace law. These can be found at Fact sheets & tools. [www.fwo.gov.au/Best-Practice-Guides]

Best Practice Guides

- Work & family
- Consultation & cooperation in the workplace
- Use of individual flexibility arrangements
- A guide for young workers
- An employer's guide to employing young workers
- Gender pay equity
- Small business & the Fair Work Act
- Workplace privacy
- Managing underperformance
- Effective dispute resolution
- Improving workplace productivity in bargaining

(SOURCE: www.fwo.gov.au/Best-Practice-Guides)

Perth house prices weakest in Aust

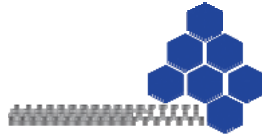
Figures released by the largest property database in Australia have revealed the value of homes in Perth fell 2.1 per cent in the three months to May. Overall the RP Data-Riskmark Hedonic Australian Home Value Index rose by 0.6 per cent in May after rising by 0.2 per cent in April. Perth was the only capital city to record a price fall in the last quarter.

The fastest price growth was in Canberra (up 3.7 per cent), followed by Melbourne (up 3.3 per cent), Sydney (up 2.4 per cent), Darwin (up 1.6 per cent), Adelaide (up 2.3 per cent) and Brisbane (up 0.8 per cent). The index also showed home prices are up 12.1 per cent on a year ago. In Perth the cost of a house has increased 6.1 per cent

compared to 12 months ago. (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 30.6.10)



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