

CoSBA



Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)



Date: 4 October 2011

Hon Wayne Swan MP  
Deputy Prime Minister & Treasurer  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister & Treasurer

Re: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

I refer to the two attached Media Releases by the Hon Bruce Billson MP, Shadow Minister for Small Business, Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs that sets out the fact that you, with the knowledge that the union movement intended to address the question of independent contractors at your tax summit, however no invitation was extended to the Independent Contractors Australia.

This stands as a most reprehensible act on your part and on the part of your Government that clearly demonstrates an acute bias by your Government towards the union movement, in the words of Bruce Billson, an *"ideological assault on independent contractors"*.

In the words of Bruce Billson, it will indeed be a test for your 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.

It is axiomatic that an attack on independent contractors is an attack on small business, and that seriously reflects on your Government's policies concerning small business in general.

Yours faithfully

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

**OLIVER MOON  
Chief Executive Officer**

cc.: Julia Gillard, Prime Minister; Tony Abbott, Leader of the Opposition; Senator Nick Sherry, Minister for Small Business; Eric Abets, Shadow Minister for Workplace Relations; Bruce Billson, Shadow Minister for Small Business; Independent Contractors Australia.



**THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP**  
Shadow Minister for Small Business,  
Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Federal Member for Dunkley

**MEDIA RELEASE**

30 September 2011

**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.

**Media Contact: Vincent Sheehy 0417 236 109**



## THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business,  
Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Federal Member for Dunkley

### MEDIA RELEASE

3 October 2011

#### **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

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