

CoSBA



Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)

6 October 2011



Senator Nick Sherry
Minister for Small Business
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Re: FUTURE JOBS FORUM – EXCLUDES SMALL BUSINESS

You, the Prime Minister and your Government are no doubt aware that of the 11.5 million people in the workforce, 85 per cent work in the private sector. Up to 88 per cent of private sector workers are employed by a small business (firms of up to 50 workers). That's 8.7 million people. On any estimate the small business sector dominates the job market now, and is where future jobs are most likely to emerge.

Yet of the panel speakers at the Government's Future Jobs Forum being held today, not one is from small business. There are five politicians, five unionists, six academics and 10 from big business. The exclusion of small business representatives is glaring and totally reprehensible.

This is in complete contradiction to the appeal Julia Gillard made to Labor last month, to embrace the self-employed and small business people in the party's future. This contradiction is a reflection of the Government's credibility in general and with small business in particular.

This omission stands as an odious insult to small business and as a clear example of your Government having adopted policies that are clearly anti-small business.

Yours faithfully

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

OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer

cc Julia Gillard, Prime Minister; Senator Evans, Minister for Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations; Tony Abbott, Leader of the Opposition; Senator Eric Abets, Shadow Minister for Workplace Relations; Bruce Billson, Shadow Minister for Small Business.