



## THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business, Deregulation, Competition Policy and Sustainable Cities

Federal Member for Dunkley

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **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.

The Minister for Small Business, Craig Emerson last week showed how far removed he is from those small businesses doing it tough by publicly backing Kevin Rudd's leadership, despite Julia Gillard admitting the government was 'losing its way'.

Instead of being a media talking head, consumed with internal Labor politics, it is well passed time Craig Emerson focussed on the portfolio responsibilities he has spectacularly neglected for over two years.

Time and time again the Labor Government has ignored the interests and concerns of small businesses in their policy and decision making.

Calls from small businesses for practical support and information to cope with Labor's 'one size fits all' so called modern awards were greeted with an insulting \$10 million being provided to the union movement to train shop stewards.

Labor has refused to take action on the crisis facing smaller enterprises trying to access finance on affordable terms. Instead Craig Emerson characterises the crisis as more 'perception versus reality'.

Craig Emerson has stood idly by while the Government developed paid parental leave arrangements that leaves small businesses to be the pay clerk and fund administrative expenses, payroll and office systems changes, reporting requirements and any increased liabilities for workers compensation, payroll tax and superannuation.

The Coalition again calls on Craig Emerson to step up and be the Minister for Small Business.

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