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MEDIA RELEASE

15 June 2011

Sherry bookseller slap adds insult to injury

The Gillard Labor Government Minister for Small Business, Senator Nick Sherry, has chosen to be a 'Prophet of Doom' rather than provide policy and drive to support retailers challenged by on-line competition.

Senator Sherry picked out booksellers from a range of retailers struggling with difficult trading conditions and on-line shopping to predict the demise of general bookstores in 5 years.

Rather than get behind retailers at a time when consumer confidence in being battered by cost of living pressures and erratic Labor government policy, the Minister charged with supporting small business chooses to sink the boot in.

This insulting and damaging attitude reflects Gillard Government disinterest in the fate of small business and is yet another example of a Minister who is more of an adversary than ally to small business and family enterprises.

The retail sector had rightly pointed out that it was not attracting a fair share of funding from the Government's 'Small Business Online Program' designed to support smaller enterprises to adapt to e-commerce.

Rather than positively address the concerns the retail community was raising, the Government choose to scrap the program completely.

Senator Sherry's defeatist and demoralising commentary adds insult to the injury of his lack of support for retailing as small business adapts and innovates to respond to market trends and difficult trading conditions.

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