



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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### GUIDES TO SAVE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND HIRERS TIME

For the first time, Australia's one million independent contractors and their hirers can access free and easy-to-follow guidance on such matters as tax, insurance, superannuation and dispute resolution.

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy Craig Emerson has released ***Independent contractors: the essential handbook*** and its online companion ***Contractor decision tool***.

"The handbook is a practical reference guide for independent contractors and the people who hire them," Dr Emerson said.

"It's a simple, easy to use guide that covers everything that independent contractors and their hirers should consider or know about independent contracting arrangements."

Independent contractors work in a variety of industries and occupations from tradespeople to engineers and consultants.

The handbook has been given the thumbs up by more than 100 independent contractors and was developed in consultation with unions and industry associations.

"This government is proud to be the first to provide much needed guidance on issues directly affecting independent contractors and to help save them time, money and headaches when sorting out their contracting arrangements," Dr Emerson said.

Dr Emerson said the online ***Contractor decision tool*** would help users understand whether they are party to a genuine common law independent contracting agreement.

"This tool is fantastic because it will help to remove some of the ambiguity around independent contracting and can highlight the existence of a sham contracting arrangement," Dr Emerson said.

The ***Independent contractors: the essential handbook*** and the ***Contractor decision tool*** are available at [www.business.gov.au/contractors](http://www.business.gov.au/contractors)

Copies of the handbook can be ordered by calling the Independent Contractors' Hotline on 1300 667 850. They are also available at the electorate offices of Federal MPs.

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