



# 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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28 June, 2010

### **CUTTING RED TAPE FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

Small Business Minister Craig Emerson today announced the appointment of the nine members of the Small Business Advisory Committee, implementing another election commitment.

Dr Emerson said the Committee members will assess proposed legislation or regulation which might impact heavily on small businesses and provide advice on the Regulation Impact Statement. Advice from Committee members will also be provided to Cabinet when it is considering the proposal.

The Small Business Advisory Committee will be independent of Government and will complement the Government's existing regulation assessment framework.

"The entrepreneurship and innovation of Australia's 2.4 million small businesses make a major contribution to the economy," he said.

"The Small Business Advisory Committee will make sure that the interests of small businesses across Australia are considered at the highest levels of Government and that regulation does not act as a brake on small business.

"The Committee will help reduce red tape and keep compliance costs for small businesses low."

The Committee's members are: Mr Gary Black; Mr Greg Evans; Mr Tom Fisher, Mr Michael King; Mr Anthony Matis; Ms Su McCluskey; Mr Robert Powell; Ms Claire Prendergast and Ms Jan Taylor.

"These individuals bring a wealth of small business experience and knowledge to the table and will help us consider the regulatory impact of policy proposals on small business across a broad range of different government areas," Dr Emerson said.

"We will continue to work with the business community to improve Australia's regulatory framework, driving the productivity improvements Australia needs."

The Committee will also meet once a year to advise the Government of any systemic issues that arise from the reviews of regulation they have conducted.

Attached: Biographies of the members of the Small Business Advisory Committee.

**Media contact: Carly Learson, Minister's Office, 0466 262 111**

**Mr Gary Black, Executive Director, National Retail Association**

Mr Black has an extensive depth and breadth of experience in the employer and industry aspects of regulation and compliance for small business. Mr Black has previously held industrial relations, advocacy and management positions with a number of Australia's leading employer organisations. Mr Black has been working for the National Retailers Association since 2001 and has previously worked for the Queensland Confederation of Industry and ITT Sheraton.

**Mr Greg Evans, Director, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Mr Evans has extensive experience in economic policy advice across a range of business sectors. Mr Evans's other appointments include board member of the International Chamber of Commerce (Australia), a member of the Government's Standard Business Reporting Board and membership of the Panel of Experts reviewing Australia's superannuation system. Mr Evans is the immediate past Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (Australia).

**Mr Tom Fisher, Fisher Advisory Services**

Mr Fisher is a small business owner with considerable knowledge and understanding of the regulatory issues affecting small business. Mr Fisher has previously held roles as the Federal Safety Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer of the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and was also Head of the former Office of Small Business. Mr Fisher has represented Australia at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, where he chaired the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting.

**Dr. Michael King, Managing Director, Kings Australia**

Mr King is an experienced small business owner with an in-depth understanding of the regulatory environment impacting small business. Dr. King was a member of the Victorian Government's Small Business Advisory Council and is a long standing board member of G21, a formal alliance of government, business and community organisations for the Geelong region.

**Mr Anthony Matis, CPA Australia**

Mr Matis has an extensive knowledge on the compliance issues facing small business across a range of sectors. Mr Matis's past and present appointments have included Chairman of the National CPA SME Board Advisory Sector Committee and Board member of the Australian Children's Music Foundation. Anthony is the immediate past CEO of the Australian Newsagents Federation.

**Ms Su McCluskey, Chief Executive Officer, Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations**

Ms McCluskey has broad policy experience, especially in taxation, regulatory and rural affairs. Ms McCluskey is the immediate past Executive Director of the Office of Best Practice Regulation and has previously held senior policy positions with the Business Council of Australia, the National Farmers Federation and the Australian Taxation Office.

**Mr Robert Powell, Director, BDO Australia**

Mr Powell is a long standing chartered accountant with substantial experience in small to medium enterprise, specifically tax and superannuation. Mr Powell has been a Chartered Accountant since 1982 and has worked in the business advisory, audit and taxation consulting areas for a number of large accounting firms. Mr Powell is extensively involved with SME working groups and is an acknowledged spokesperson on business and taxation issues affecting small business.

**Ms Claire Prendergast, Starfish Business Solutions**

Ms Prendergast is a small business owner who has a breadth of experience on small business issues across a range of industry sectors. Ms Prendergast works with a number of Indigenous businesses and communities as a business consultant and has a good understanding of the complexities of doing business in regional and remote areas. Ms Prendergast has previously provided consultancy services to Government, including on the DEEWR Indigenous Employment Panel, Indigenous Business Australia and Tourism Australia.

**Ms Jan Taylor, Principal, JTA Australia**

Ms Taylor has a broad experience across a wide variety of small business issues and sectors. She has experience as the Queensland Director of Fair Trading and Commissioner for Consumer Affairs. Additionally, Ms Taylor has previously been a member of the Queensland Competition Authority, the Building Services Authority, the Australian Council of Businesswomen, the Retail Trading Hours Inquiry and the Australian Government's Export Beef Review.