



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
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### **ABBOTT TO ROB SMALL BUSINESS OF MUCH-DESERVED TAX BREAKS**

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott confirmed today as gospel truth that if elected as Prime Minister he will deny small businesses a much-needed tax break, Small Business Minister Craig Emerson has revealed.

Questioned at the Annual Conference of the Council of Small Business of Australia whether he would allow the Gillard Government's small business tax breaks to go ahead, Mr Abbott said he would not.

"Mr Abbott opposed Labor's economic stimulus that helped keep the doors of thousands of small businesses open during the global recession and now he's opposing much-needed small business tax breaks during the recovery", he said.

"He's pledged to rob every one of Australia's 2.4 million small businesses of the ability to write off instantly any and all assets valued at up to \$5,000 by opposing the Government's tax reform package.

"And Mr Abbott would whack small businesses with extra costs as large businesses pass onto them the increase in the company tax rate from 30 per cent to 31.7 per cent to fund his paid parental leave scheme".

Dr Emerson said the Liberals can no longer claim to be the party of small business.

"Tony Abbott's Liberals are the party of higher taxes on small business", he said.

"The Liberals hold the record as the highest-taxing government in Australia's history, from 2002 to 2007, and Mr Abbott plans to exceed the effort of the Howard-Costello Government.

Dr Emerson said Mr Abbott would also deny Australia's 720,000 incorporated small businesses a cut in the company tax rate.

"To rub salt into the wound, Mr Abbott also confirmed that he would pull the plug on the National Broadband Network, denying small businesses a powerful enabling technology that would cut costs and extend their marketing reach," he said.

"Bob Menzies would turn in his grave as Tony Abbott forgets the small business owners on whose shoulders Menzies founded the Liberal Party.

"Menzies found the forgotten people, Labor is supporting them and Abbott wants to lose them again".

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