



SENATOR THE HON MARK ARBIB

Minister for Employment Participation
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Government Service Delivery

HON CRAIG EMERSON MP

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

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

27 July 2009

Rudd Government Ministers roll up their sleeves for small business

Craig Emerson and Senator Mark Arbib today joined more than 80 of their state and federal colleagues to work with a local small business as part of the NSW Business Chamber's annual *Pollies for Small Business* program.

The Federal parliamentarians visited local business All Weather Insulation, a ceiling insulation installer, to see first hand the Energy Efficiency Program of the Stimulus Plan.

Senator Mark Arbib said it was fantastic seeing the Government's Economic Stimulus Plan at work, with more than 50,000 home owners now having had ceiling insulation fitted in their homes in the past three months.

"This is only one of more than 35,000 projects to be delivered across Australia, providing thousands of tradies and local communities with work.

"There is no doubt that the Stimulus Plan has cushioned the Australian economy from the worst effects of the global recession".

Pollies for Small Business puts our politicians at the coalface and gives small business operators the chance to raise their concerns directly with their local MP. During a global recession that opportunity has never been more important.

Minister for Small Business Craig Emerson said he enjoyed the experience of working with a small business operator.

"In these difficult economic times it is small business that will drive the recovery," Mr Emerson said.

"And we will continue to work hard to help small businesses lead that drive.

“Direct assistance to small business is still available through the Small Business Tax Break.

“Small businesses will have access to an additional 50 per cent tax deduction for plant and equipment purchased between 13 December 2008 and the end of this year and installed before the end of next year.”.

NSW Business Chamber CEO Stephen Cartwright said with much of the focus on the big picture issues, It was easy for politicians to lose sight of the concerns of small business.

“Last year 102 State and Federal politicians took part from the major parties, greens and independents.

“This is a great program. It helps businesspeople and MPs understand one another better and we should encourage and support any measures that can help achieve that”, Mr Cartwright concluded.

Media contacts

Alison Hill: 0407 570 640 (Senator Mark Arbib)

Chris Ward: 0418 424 654 (Craig Emerson MP)