



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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Small business support line gets the thumbs up

A free service offering small business advice and support over the phone has been given a big tick of approval by callers, Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson told Parliament today.

Dr Emerson said a survey of callers revealed 90 per cent were satisfied with the service designed to assist small business during the global recession.

“More than 2200 people have taken advantage of the service since its launch last month,” he said.

Dr Emerson said Opposition doomsayers who were quick to criticise the support line have scant regard for the small business community.

In a press release dated 17 August 2009 the Member for Moncrieff Steve Ciobo described the Small Business Support Line as:

“...window dressing...of highly questionable value to small business...”

The Opposition went on to say the support line would be staffed by bureaucrats and would offer none of the tangible help small businesses need on a daily basis.

Dr Emerson said the support line is staffed by eight advisers with extensive small business experience as well as training by “beyondblue” to help callers who may be suffering from depression.

“By criticising and opposing Rudd government initiatives to support small business and by calling for the early withdrawal of economic stimulus, the Opposition is betraying the interests of small business for its own political self interest.

“The Opposition would rather see small business fail than the Rudd government succeed.”

Businesspeople can phone the small business support team toll free on 1800 777 275 between 8am and 6pm weekdays.

Email inquiries are also welcome at sbsl@innovation.gov.au

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