



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **DR CRAIG EMERSON**

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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### **BRISBANE SECURES INTERNATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS CONGRESS**

Small business leaders from across the globe will descend on Brisbane for the International Business Congress in 2009, Federal Minister for Small Business Craig Emerson said today.

Dr Emerson welcomed the news after the Council of Small Business of Australia (COSBOA) won the right to play host at a meeting of the International Small Business Congress in Bangkok.

"This is a strong vote of confidence in Brisbane's ability to stage world class events and in COSBOA for securing the Congress," he said.

Dr Emerson said 250 delegates from overseas are expected to attend the conference plus another 250 from Australia.

"That's a great deal of local and international expertise under the one roof to debate issues affecting small business in the modern workplace," he said.

"Like COSBOA, I would anticipate much discussion surrounding issues such as employment practices, the rapid spread of e-commerce and succession planning.

"The Rudd Government already has its nose to the grindstone, searching for ways to unravel the red tape that is strangling small business.

"We have already established a working group to embark on a bold new path of regulatory reforms.

"The aim is to strengthen the capacity of small businesses to compete in tough national and international markets."

Small businesses make a huge contribution to the Australian economy given there are 1.9 million small businesses in Australia employing more than 4.1 million people.

"Congratulations to COSBOA and CEO Tony Steven for securing the conference which promises to put the spotlight firmly on small business in Australia and on the world stage," Dr Emerson said.

The Congress will be held at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre between 29 November and 2 December 2009.