

Tony Windsor MP

Federal Member for New England
PO Box 963 Tamworth NSW 2340

Ph (02) 6761 3080

Fax (02) 6761 3380

Email Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Media Release

Thursday 21st February 2002

Windsor supports Govt “Fair Dismissal” Bill

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has supported the Government’s Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal) Bill in Federal Parliament today.

Mr Windsor said that small business, defined in the Bill as a business employing under 20 people, had a fear of the prospect of an unfair dismissal claim when terminating employment.

“With our ever increasing tendency in society to litigate, it is regrettable that from time to time, Unfair Dismissal Claims are made.

Such claims have a negative impact on the psyche of small business operators.

There is no doubt that there is a fear that small business may be subjected to claims and as such, they are reluctant to employ people who may not be known to them,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also highlighted to the Parliament other impediments to the successful operation of small business.

He particularly referred to the fuel taxation issue, insurance issues and inequities in relation to Telstra.

Mr Windsor told the Parliament, “It is hypocritical of any Government to suggest that it is supportive of small business when taxation policy and fuel policy are in fact anti small business.

In fact the message emanating from Canberra is to get big or go away.

The policy framework is not pro anything small whether that be a small town or a small business,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor on 0427 66 8868 or 0412 916 040