



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Government Gets It Right For Small Business

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, has congratulated the Government on its introduction of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting Small Business Employment) Bill 2004.

This Bill is aimed at returning the exemption from redundancy packages for Businesses employing less than 15 employees.

This exemption was lost recently through a decision of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Mr Windsor said, "The decision by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on the 26th of March to remove exemption from the redundancy provisions for small business under award agreements was clearly a threat to the viability of these businesses.

The Government's swift action to address this threat to these businesses is to be congratulated.

While I understand the concerns expressed by the Industrial Commission for workers who lose their position, I feel the Commission had failed to take into account the impact of redundancy packages on the viability of a small business.

Many small businesses are family businesses and they are usually great places to work, the benefits extended to workers in these businesses are to be measured in relationships as well as wages.

Equally there should be recognition that these businesses lack the financial reserves of larger organisations and I will support the swift action of the Government in protecting the viability of small business in the New England area by supporting the Work Place Relations Amendment Bill," concluded Mr Windsor.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080