

Steven Griffiths MP

Shadow Minister for Economic and Regional Development
Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
Shadow Minister for Government Enterprises
Shadow Minister for Federal/State Relations
Shadow Minister for Small Business

Wednesday, 14 September 2011

Labor's small business shame

Small Business Minister Tom Koutsantonis' proposal for a Small Business Commissioner is simply more media spin designed to cover up the Government's shameful record.

Labor is all talk and no action when it comes to helping small businesses and the Small Business Commissioner proposal will only add unnecessary levels of red tape and bureaucracy that will further hamper business in South Australia.

Under Labor:

- South Australian small businesses are struggling under **the highest taxes in the nation**
- South Australian businesses have **the lowest confidence of any state or territory**
- **Only 3 per cent of businesses are supportive of Labor's policies** – the worst of all states and territories

Shadow Minister for Small Business Steven Griffiths said Labor had done nothing for small business in this State.

"Small businesses are the back bone of the economy and Labor has treated the sector with contempt," Mr Griffiths said.

"Minister Koutsantonis' proposal for a Small Business Commissioner only pays lip service to the crisis small business is facing and creates an added burden of bureaucracy and red tape to an already complicated system.

"Small businesses need immediate action to address Labor's crippling taxes – the highest in the nation – that hamper growth and deter investment.

"Minister Koutsantonis revealed his true colours when he told an Estimates Committee earlier this year *"It's not the Government's job to make businesses succeed"*.

"Minister Koutsantonis has this one wrong – it is the role of government to support small business – Labor just isn't doing it.

"Labor must stop focussing on its own division and disunity and start providing real solutions for small business in this State."

Contact: Steven Griffiths 0417 801 992

www.stevengriffiths.net