

# Randall welcomes announcement of Inspector-General of Taxation

Federal Member for Canning has welcomed the recent news that Mr David Vos will be the new Inspector-General of Taxation saying small businesses in the electorate would have a stronger voice through his office.

Mr Vos has a wealth of experience as a tax practitioner and played a key role in advising the Government on aspects of the New Tax System.

The Inspector-General will focus on systemic issues within the taxation system and this initiative of the Howard Government is a clear demonstration that we remain committed to providing assistance to small business by reducing compliance burdens.

Mr Randall encouraged small businesses in the Canning electorate to take their concerns directly to Mr Vos so he can initiate reviews on their behalf to identify and potential problems in the administration of the tax system.

“The establishment of the Inspector-General of Taxation was a key initiative in the Government’s 2001 election platform designed to strengthen the advice given to the Government on taxation administration. The Howard Government and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) have been working hard to reduce the taxation compliance burden on small business and make it easier for them to meet their taxation obligations,” Mr Randall said.

The main office will be located in Sydney and can be contacted on 02 6263 3500 or on email, enquiries@igt.gov.au

## Is your business a Top Family Friendly Workplace?

Don Randall invites businesses across the electorate to apply for the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Business Council of Australia (BCA) National Work and Family Awards 2003/04.

The Awards are open to any workplace - small, medium or large, private, public or community sector - are an excellent opportunity for organisations that have family friendly policies to achieve well-deserved public recognition.

The Awards are run by a partnership of ACCI, the BCA, the Council for Equal Opportunity in Employment Ltd and the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and Office of the Employment Advocate.

There are new Award categories in 2003/04 to recognise the most outstanding applicants in a regional or rural community as well as various State and Territory Awards.

**Applications for the Awards close on 27 October 2003. Winners will be announced at a presentation to be held in May 2004.**

For more information or application guidelines, contact Wendy Fogarty at the Council for Equal Opportunity in Employment at [www.ceoe.com.au](http://www.ceoe.com.au) or go to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations website [www.workplace.gov.au/WorkFamily](http://www.workplace.gov.au/WorkFamily).

## Small Business Survey

Please number the most important issues to you:

- Working to keep interest rates at 30 year lows by responsible economic management.
- Continuing to providing more apprenticeships for young Australians.
- Continuing to pay back the \$96 billion debt left behind by Labor.
- Changing unfair dismissal laws to give employers flexibility over their own business.
- Working in our local community to reduce crime, especially graffiti and property damage.
- Other (please specify).

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Are state taxes and business insurance premiums too high?

- Yes  No

Optional (please tick your choice)

Generally, do you consider yourself:

- A committed party voter (Please specify party)
- Labor  Liberal  National  
 Green  Democrat  Independent  
 One Nation

- An uncommitted/swinging voter (which do you generally prefer)
- Labor  Liberal  National  
 Green  Democrat  Independent  
 One Nation

**So I can regularly update you about issues affecting your business, please enter your details:**

Owner/Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Don Randall MP, 2851 Albany Highway, KELMSCOTT WA 6111 or Fax to: 9390 1255



# Don Randall's Small Business Report

OCTOBER 2003

A community newsletter from Don Randall JP MP, Federal Member for CANNING.

## Record job boost great news for all

Federal Member for Canning Don Randall has welcomed recent news on the strength of the Australian economy and record low unemployment figures because it provides immeasurable benefits not only to his constituents, but particularly to small business.

Mr Randall said, “Unemployment is now at a 13 year low. This is clear evidence of Australia’s particularly resilient domestic economy, which is supported by low interest rates and strong consumer confidence.

Labour force data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that Australia’s unemployment rate dropped to 5.8% in August 2003, which is the lowest recorded rate of unemployment since January 1990.

“These figures mean that an extra 80,600 people are now in employment. 63,500 are now in new full-time jobs and 17,100

in part-time employment. “This news comes on the back of the worst drought in 100 years, the onset of SARS, a weak international economy and the war in Iraq, yet it demonstrates the solid economic record of the Howard Government.

**Since being elected in 1996, the Coalition has created more than 1.2 million new jobs and resided over an unemployment rate which has fallen from 8.2% to 5.8%.**

“While boosting employment opportunities, the Howard Government is also supporting families with income tax cuts, which took effect on 1 July and the lowest home loan interest rates in 30 years have allowed young people and families to invest in their future and achieve more easily the great Australian dream.

“The flow on effects of more money in the pockets

of consumers and increased spending confidence are essential to the continued success of small business operators in Canning.

“However, while it is pleasing to see the unemployment rate fall below 6% for the first time in more than 13 years, more can be achieved with additional workplace reform.

Disappointingly, the Labor Party and the Senate refuse to support the Government’s workplace reform agenda and the Gallop Government continues to hinder this process by pushing ahead with dismantling the fairer workplace practices delivered under the former State Government.

“While the Howard Government continues to work hard to raise the standard of living for all Australians, the Labor and minor Parties seem intent on doing the opposite.”

### What's inside

• **New Apprenticeship Update**

• **New Inspector General of Taxation**

• **Gallop Government hinders small businesses**

• **Small Business Survey**

### Office Details

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**You are in the electorate of Canning if you live in one of the following suburbs...**

Armadale, Banksiadale, Barragup, Bedforddale, Birchmont, Blythwood, Boulevard, Bridgewater, Brookdale, Brookland Greens, Byford, Canning Vale, Carcoola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Emilyn, Fairbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Heron, Holyoake, Hopetdale, Huntingdale, Inglehope, Jarrahdale, Karragullen, Karrakup, Kelmscott, Keysbrook, Kooljerup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Murrinup, Meelon, Miami, Mount Nasura, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleystone, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Solus, South Yunderup, Southern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Waratah, Waroona, West Pinjarra, Westfield, Whithy, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.

Don's Desk

# Dear Small Business Owner

Small business must be given every opportunity to operate in a climate where they can make a profit and build their businesses successfully.

Sadly, that is not always the case. A myriad of challenges face small business, with many of those challenges coming from government and regulators.

The Howard Government believes government should allow small business to operate with as little obstruction as possible. This attitude allows the Coalition to continually find ways of reducing compliance and red tape and deliver legislation to create more flexible workplaces.

Others ways in which the small business community has benefited through Howard Government policies is through the reduction of company tax.

It is disappointing the Coalition has been faced with continued resistance in helping small business. We have now tried to pass legislation 8 times to free small business from the inadequacies of the unfair dismissal law. However, we have been defeated each time in the Senate by the Labor Party, the Democrats and the Greens.

The Gallop Government too has much to answer for as they continue to increase taxes and charges at every opportunity despite a pre-election promise this would not happen.

The State Government is responsible for burdening small business in Canning with higher stamp duty costs and payroll tax. This is simply anti small business and opportunistic.



Small business is forced to contend with these anxieties and again endure the return of the bad old days on the industrial front as the Gallop Government panders shamelessly to its union bosses.

This state of affairs was highlighted clearly during the recent Cole Royal Commission. This attitude is one reason why many employers and employees are turning to the federal award jurisdiction and the Australian Workplace Agreements system.

In fact, since May 2002 there has been 37,000 Australian Workplace Agreements signed. In the same period, just 10 union brokered Western Australian individual contracts were registered.

**The Coalition Government values small business. There is more to be done and achieve but we are determined to listen and act on the needs and wishes of this highly important sector of the Australian economy.**

If there is anything with which I can help your business, please contact me.

Your views and opinions, both negative and positive, are welcome.

Don Randall

www.business.gov.au



## The Coalition is working to help small business

The 'One-Stop-Shop' for business is online at [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

### Gallop Government limits growth of Canning small businesses

Federal Member for Canning has called on the Gallop Government to seriously consider the findings of a recent report entitled "Effect of State Taxes on Insurance for Small Business" by Trowbridge Deloitte which has shown that businesses in Western Australia face taxes that are the **highest in Australia**.

"This report clearly demonstrates that **this Labor Government is responsible for the highest rate of taxation in Australia on insurance premiums for metropolitan small businesses.**

"State taxes imposed by them now contribute 27% of the total cost of small business insurance premiums for Perth's small business community.

"The report also found that State taxes on insurance premiums for regional businesses are the second highest in Australia.

"Families and businesses have already been slugged \$400 million a year worth of tax increases by the Gallop Labor Government - making it harder for employers to give people jobs."

"While the Howard Government continues to find ways to reduce burdens on small business, the Gallop Government shows how out of touch and disdainful of small business they are by increasing stamp duty and insurance costs.

#### Did you know?

- The Insurance Council of Australia has estimated that 17% of businesses operate without insurance. Of those, 30% say cost is the reason for non-insurance.
- The Trowbridge Deloitte Report concluded that taxes on business insurance in Western Australia are among the highest in the world - higher than the level of taxation in Japan, America, Canada, UK, Germany, Singapore and Hong Kong.

### Small Business Contacts

**Business Entry Point** – for help with a range of government information.  
Website: [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

**GrantsLINK** – a comprehensive whole-of-government website offering direct links to information on Commonwealth Government grant programs and guidelines as well as advice on finding the best source of funding for your business.  
Website: [www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)  
Information line: 1800 026 222

**Small Business Development Corporation** - Small Business Advisory Service in Western Australia for free information, advice and referral services for your business.  
Website: [www.sbdcc.com.au](http://www.sbdcc.com.au)  
Freecall: 1800 199 125

**ATO Small Business Helpline** – for assistance and advice on tax matters affecting your business.  
Telephone: 13 28 66

**New Apprenticeships** – if you are thinking of taking on an apprentice or trainee.  
Website: [www.newapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.newapprenticeships.gov.au)  
New Apprenticeships Referral Line: 1800 639 629

**Jobsearch** – for recruiting staff take advantage of Jobsearch, an easy, cost-neutral way to recruit staff online.  
Website: [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)  
Employer hotline: 13 17 15

**Office of the Employment Advocate (OEA)** – if you are interested in making Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) with your employees, the OEA can provide you with assistance and advice.  
Website: [www.awaon-line.gov.au](http://www.awaon-line.gov.au)  
Freecall: 1300 366 632  
Western Australia office: 08 9464 5401

# New Apprenticeships program goes from strength to strength

The Howard Government's New Apprenticeships Incentives Program is fuelling the growth in New Apprentices achieving higher-level qualifications.

The Federal Government provides financial incentives to employers opening up opportunities for New Apprentices and skilling up their existing workforce.

### What has the Howard Government done to support New Apprenticeships?

- Lower qualification training at Certificate II receives \$1,375.
- Higher-level training at the Certificate III and IV levels attract a commencement payment of \$1,650 and a completion payment of \$2,750.
- On 1 July this year the Howard Government introduced new incentives for people over 45 years of age who are welfare dependant, returning to the workforce or have been made redundant. Employers receive an extra \$825 for taking an older person on and \$825 when their New Apprentice completes his or her training.

• **School-based New Apprenticeships** New incentives apply to school based apprenticeships from 1 January 2003 and provide an extra incentive of \$825 for employers who are willing to take on a New Apprentice while the young person is still at school and an \$825 retention bonus to employers who continue to employ a young person as a New Apprentice within 6 months of them completing Year 12, with up to 27,000 Year 12 school leavers expected to be eligible to attract the bonus.

### How did Labor support apprenticeships and traineeships?

- Apprenticeships and traineeships as a proportion of the working age population declined in Labor's last two years to the lowest level for at least two decades.
- New Apprenticeships have more than doubled since Labor was in office - 396,000 are now in training - up from 135,000 in 1995.
- Labor has failed to put forward any substantive policy on vocational education in training.

### New Apprenticeships at a glance

- ✓ There were 396,000 apprentices and trainees in-training, an increase of 11% from 30 June 2002.
- ✓ Part-time (including school-based) apprentices and trainees accounted for over a quarter of the total in-training, up from 22% at 30 June 2002.
- ✓ There were 146,900 female apprentices and trainees in-training, accounting for 37% of all apprentices, up from 35% at 30 June 2002.
- ✓ There were 268,200 commencements in the 12 months ending 30 June 2003, up 8% from the previous year.
- ✓ There were 121,200 completions in the 12 months ending 30 June 2003, up 14% from the previous year.

Source: The National Centre for Vocational Education Research Apprentice and Trainee Activity June Quarter 2003

