

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

Media Release

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America sees the light and supports small business – when will Australia?

The National Independent Retailers Association (NIRA) likes the actions of American President Barak Obama as he announced he will roll out a proposed \$US30 billion (AU\$33.9 billion) small-business lending program. Mr Obama stated “*Small businesses...have created roughly 65 percent of all new jobs over the past decade and a half. And I think we should make it easier for them,*” NIRA wants to hear that sort of announcement from a politician in Australia.

NIRA notes that almost 2m working families in Australia are small business operators. Peter Strong, CEO of NIRA, highlighted that “landlords in shopping centres think nothing of increasing the rent for a working family by 75% in one go, the banks have interest rates 2% higher for these working families than for anyone else, the banks keep cash from sales made by these working families for between 3 to 5 days while still charging interest on overdrafts and the Fair Work Ombudsman will charge and fine the bread winner from a working family for not understanding workplace legislation that even a paymaster from Coles will struggle with.”

NIRA asks the Prime Minister and the Minister for Small Business to ensure that all government agencies and their staff understand that a small business is also a working family and that any new processes, such as emission trading schemes, are small business friendly in ease of understanding and implementation.

Mr Strong finished by saying “a small business is a working family, that employs over 4.6m people from other working families, we need to take the lead from the American President and treat our small businesses with respect, with support and with understanding, then the economy can continue to grow and the likelihood of more economic crisis created by big business will decrease.”

Ends

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