

## Who are we?

We are not-for-profit, small/micro business advocacy groups. We talk to government and politicians about improving things for small business and self-employed people.

## Our Position

Governments need to understand and support people who earn an income through their business. There are over 2 million of us. Our families' health and economic well being depend on our businesses.

## Key issues for small business

- Governments must recognise and understand that small business people do not have the same expertise and resources of big business.
- We need to reduce our hours of work through a big reduction in red tape and compliance costs.
- We are consumers, and need effective protection from unfair contracts and unscrupulous behaviour from big business and government.
- We need recognition that the our health is as important as the health of employees. All individuals should be valued the same way.

These are the key issues we believe are important.

Does this comparison help your voting decision?

Julia Gillard's ALP	Issues we believe are important	Tony Abbotts' Coalition
Small Business Minister not in Cabinet	We need a dedicated Small Business Minister in Cabinet.	Says 'yes'. An election promise to put the minister in cabinet
Do not have a stated position	We need a Small Business Ombudsman to fix disputes with government	A key election initiative
Said they would do this in 2009 but decided not to	Protection is needed from unfair contracts for small business owners	A key election initiative
They believe that the current system is OK	The workplace relations changes are too confusing	Too afraid to say anything
Small business has a process that can limit unfair dismissal claims	Employee Dismissal laws must be different for small business	No Change to the ALP's policy
Yes will deliver	National Broad Band Network – we think this is essential	No – must be privately owned
Cleared up some red tape and streamlined processes (see website for more info)	We want less red tape and less compliance demands	General promise to reduce red tape for small business
Will reduce the company tax rate if the mining tax is passed	Tax rates and paperwork – we want a decrease in the complexity of tax and a decrease in rates	Will reduce company tax
No comment	Portable Bank accounts (supported by The Greens)	No comment
Seems to have plans to totally alter these tax laws but are not saying	Self-employed (PSI) tax laws	An election promise to keep these tax laws as they are

If you have an important issue email it to [info@cosboa.org.au](mailto:info@cosboa.org.au)

The Greens will be an important part of the Senate, for their small business policies visit [www.thegreens.org.au](http://www.thegreens.org.au)

## Ask these questions of your electoral candidates

- Will you have a dedicated small business minister in the federal cabinet?
- Will you appoint a small business Ombudsman at the federal level?
- Will you remove business involvement in the collection of superannuation funds by including this in the tax system?
- Will you develop a workplace relations system recognising small business is run by individuals who cannot have the same understanding & resources as the paymaster of a large company?
- Will you give small business owners protection from unfair contracts and unscrupulous behaviour by big business and government?
- Will you support a small business impact statement for new developments and ensure that the developer compensates any business that unfairly suffers due to the development?
- Will you promise to provide a small business impact statement on any new policy proposal or any new legislation?

*Supporting information & other questions can be found at*

[www.cosboa.org.au](http://www.cosboa.org.au)

[www.contractworld.com.au](http://www.contractworld.com.au)

[www.nira.com.au](http://www.nira.com.au)

## More information and issues are on our websites!

[www.cosboa.org.au](http://www.cosboa.org.au)

[www.contractworld.com.au](http://www.contractworld.com.au)

[www.nira.com.au](http://www.nira.com.au)



This brochure has been developed by the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA), the National Independent Retailers Association (NIRA) and Independent Contractors of Australia (ICA). These organisations have no connection with any political party and are solely focused on support for people who run their own businesses.

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## Do you own a small business? Do you value small business?



## What are these two offering small business at this election?

[www.cosboa.org.au](http://www.cosboa.org.au)

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[www.nira.com.au](http://www.nira.com.au)