

SMALL BUSINESS

Small Businesses in Australia are largely family businesses and are the largest employers in the economy. Small Business faces a number of constraints on efficiency, flexibility and growth. Many small business and farmers are seeking to compete in markets where anti-competitive behaviours on the part of some large businesses and corporations with significant economic power impact heavily. The growth of these large corporations and their market dominance has been encouraged in part by the extension of trading hours in the various states and through legislative weaknesses in addressing certain anti-competitive practices. Family First will support measures to reduce these constraints by supporting policies and legislative change that encourages genuine competition.

Family First acknowledges the concerns many small business operators have about the time consumed in meeting various statutory reporting obligations. Accordingly, the Party will support measures that alleviate this burden through streamlining of these reporting systems.

Family First also recognises that the Industrial Relations System presents a particular challenge to many small; business operators. Family First will seek to promote substantial support and education measures to assist small businesses in their dealings with this system. In addition, Family First will seek to investigate ways to minimise any additional costs to small business arising from dealings with the Industrial Relations System. It will specifically seek to investigate whether a statutory office should be established to assist for this purpose.