

Newsagents and small businesses forgotten in federal budget

The Australian Newsagents' Federation (ANF) welcomes aspects of Treasurer Wayne Swan's budget, but feels not enough has been done to support the broad spectrum of small business.

The budget has overlooked the majority of Australia's 1.88 million existing small businesses which require ongoing support to become successful participants within the economy.

"The budget is primarily focused on assisting start-up enterprises, rather than implementing measures to encourage the future success of existing small businesses," ANF CEO Don MacAskill said.

"This budget treats small business as either start-up or as wealthy operators in need of taxation, and disregards the majority of average small businesses that are neither," he said.

The cutting of a number of existing small business assistance programs is disappointing, however, the ANF commends the Government for instituting a Small Business Advisory Committee to facilitate regulatory reform and to reduce the impact of regulatory burdens on small business.

The ANF is generally supportive of the Government's new initiatives to reform the national tax system, encourage productivity and reduce fuel costs; and the indirect effect these measures will have on the viability of small business.

"The core small business sector is a major source of employment and business opportunities and contributes significantly to the economy. There is not enough in this budget to encourage and assist small businesses to continue to chase those opportunities.

"The ANF will be calling on the Australian Government to include more genuine assistance programs for small business in future budgets," Don MacAskill said.

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