SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPIONS UNIT TO TACKLE GOVERNMENT FROM WITHIN

Labor Leader Michael Gunner says he will develop a Small Business Champions Unit, whose job it will be to champion small business and hold a Labor Government to account from within.

“Small business is the driver of the Territory’s jobs and economic growth. But they are not heard by the CLP Government,” Mr Gunner said.

“Labor will restructure the Department of Business to create a specialised unit dedicated to championing the cause of small business.

“The Small Business Champions Unit will work with small business to hear their issues and then champion those causes within government.

“I expect this unit to:
• Spend their time working with and talking to small business owners across the Territory;
• Regularly reporting to Government on the issues small business people face and the impact of government policies;
• Comment on all relevant Cabinet submissions to ensure the small business perspective is taken into account; and
• Case manage small business operators through all regulations and requirements they need to fulfil when applying either to start up or to expand their business.”

Michael Gunner said that Labor will also support small business by:
• Expanding the number and type of small business training and professional development programs available to small business owners and their staff;
• Organise seminars aimed at sharing innovations and practices that can assist small business to be more efficient and productive;
• Ensure the infrastructure spend by government includes strong levels of repairs and maintenance, minor capital work expenses in contract sizes that allow small to medium business to get their share;
• Develop the data and research small business needs to actively support their business choices and activities. Once established by Labor, the Independent Research and Economic Data Unit will work with the Small Business Champions Unit to provide the data and research required by small business; and
• Guarantee consistency in decision making, government structures and policy action. There will be consultation on ways forward to promote small business.

“Small Business will have more representation and levels of support than ever before under a Territory Labor Government,” Michael Gunner said.

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794