



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON. ERIC ABETZ

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Shadow Minister for Employment & Workplace Relations

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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Labor's rush job on OH&S does damage

Labor's rush job to pass harmonised occupational health and safety laws last year will do significant damage according to a PriceWaterhouseCoopers report released today.

The report shows that in Victoria alone, there will be a cost burden to business of \$3.44 billion with 78% of transition costs and 74% of ongoing costs hitting small business.

"This report shows once and for all that small business will bear the burden of these rushed laws." Senator Abetz said today.

"We know that Federal Labor refused to listen to commonsense amendments in the Parliament or to delay the implementation of the legislation to ensure that harmonisation was done properly."

"This kind of adverse impact is what happens when you rush things through," Senator Abetz said.

"Despite some States and the Commonwealth passing the laws late last year there is no commitment from all the State's to follow suit."

"It's time for Labor to start seriously listening to the concerns that have been expressed and deal with the problems for the sake of small businesses and their workers," Senator Abetz said.

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