



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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Gillard Government Guessing Game is a Fatal Uncertainty for Small Business

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The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector across Australia has condemned the new Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, for refusing to confirm who would make up her Government Ministry if re-elected. The comments follow Ms Gillard's statements concerning a possible return of Kevin Rudd as a minister to Government - "if re-elected".

Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, has said that Ms Gillard's statements regarding the recently knifed former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, "may" be a minister in a re-elected Government was an explicit refusal to confirm who would make up her Government. Mr Driscoll added that Australia was now being offered 'pre-election' and 'post-election' Ministers from a "sham B-Grade Government treating the electorate with contempt".

"Small business expects both political parties to take their proposed Ministers to the electorate before Election Day. To do otherwise is to treat the Australian public with disdain and contempt," said Mr Driscoll.

"If Ms Gillard doesn't have the courage to contest an election with the team she would have in Government, how can we expect her to deliver on any promises to change the disastrous policies of the Rudd-Gillard Government.

"If Kevin Rudd 'may' be a minister in a re-elected Labor Government who else 'may' be? All the Ministries and portfolios are now up in the air given Ms Gillard's recent comments.

"Maybe Bill Shorten will also be a Minister in a re-elected Labor Government? And then again, maybe the Small Business Minister will still be the hopeless nothing-man we have currently and that would be a tragedy.

"These are fundamental questions about the governing of the country which must be addressed before Election Day. It is an absolutely unacceptable situation where the Prime Minister has created such uncertainty already.

"Maybe the Small Business Minister would actually be a member of Cabinet if someone competent was in the role or will the country's largest collective employer remain ignored and outside the tent in a re-elected Labor Government. Again, these are all unknowns.

"These comments from Ms Gillard regarding pre-election Ministers and post-election Ministers are very concerning. The comments are reminiscent of Peter Garrett's claims at the previous election that the Labor Government planned to change and renege on everything they've initially promised to do once elected.

"The small business and retail sector in Australia has enough uncertainty to contend with in this rapidly changing government and agenda without having to witness a B-grade reality television concept like *Guess Who Is Coming to Government?*

"If Prime Minister Gillard is asking small business to recognise her new found aspirations to work in a team in the pursuit of better policy, then the least Ms Gillard must do is confirm the team she would take into Government if re-elected, with or without Mr Rudd" said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.