



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

MEDIA RELEASE

TELEPHONE: 1300 721 730

FACSIMILE: 1300 554 552

EMAIL:
info@unitedretailfederation.com.au

WEBSITE:
www.unitedretailfederation.com.au

BRISBANE:

Suite 3, 321 Kelvin Grove Road
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

PO Box 105
KELVIN GROVE BC QLD 4059

MELBOURNE:

Level 27
101 Collins St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

SYDNEY:

Level 57
MLC Centre
19-29 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ADELAIDE:

Level 24
Westpac House
91 King William St
ADELAIDE SA 5000

PERTH:

Level 28
AMP Tower
140 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

ABN: 53 009 660 495

Small Business the Big Losers in Gillard's AWU Victory Lap

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The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector across Australia, has declared the recent taxpayer funded AWU victory lap by Prime Minister Gillard to Queensland a "waste of time and money".

Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation** said that the \$13,500 taxpayer trip for Ms Gillard to attend an AWU fundraiser, at the CBD based and AWU-owned *Theodore Club*, was a slap in the face to the struggling small businesses in the electorate of Petrie, currently held by AWU backed and former union operative Yvette Darth.

"Ms Gillard has now indicated what she thinks of small business with this elitist closed-shop approach. Ms Gillard has ignored small business, imposed huge costs on small business through wage bills, IR uncertainty and particularly her government spending and wastage programs. Ms Gillard has now slapped local small business in the face by wasting money on a taxpayer funded junket to an AWU event that wasn't even held in the electorate of the MP it is supposed to be for," Mr Driscoll said.

“Local businesses that include the many cafés, restaurants and clubs in Ms Dearth’s electorate of Petrie, are struggling to cope as a direct result of decisions Ms Gillard has made and would have welcomed the desperately needed cash through their registers from this function.

“Small business in Queensland needs every piece of business it can get after being hit with tax increases, water and electricity hikes, and Ms Gillard’s unsustainable government wastage programs pushing up interest rates to unsustainable levels.

“This is a terrible error of judgment on behalf of the Prime Minister and she should immediately apologise to the small business community of Petrie.

“This AWU victory lap was just a warm-up for the \$5,500 a head Labor cash-cow that is held in Brisbane on Wednesday night.

“Ms Dearth should be ashamed that she has also ignored the struggling small businesses in her electorate which has some of the highest rates of business churn and lowest profitability in the country and should also immediately apologise.

“I extend an invitation to the Prime Minister on behalf of the voters and small businesses in Petrie, of which I am personally one, to hear first hand the devastating impacts of the many disastrous policies that she has implemented under her Government,” Mr Driscoll said.

For further comment please call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.