



**United Retail Federation**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

**TELEPHONE:** 1300 721 730

**FACSIMILE:** 1300 554 552

**EMAIL:**  
[info@unitedretailfederation.com.au](mailto:info@unitedretailfederation.com.au)

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.unitedretailfederation.com.au](http://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

### Labor Lies on IR – Time to Fess Up

### Driscoll - *“Let’s get some honesty back in the National IR debate Julia...”*

*Tuesday, 20 July 2010*

The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing retailers across Australia, has launched a scathing attack on the Government’s approach to the Industrial Relations (IR) debate calling on Prime Minister Gillard to “own up” to the modelling and “statistical bastardry” that formed the basis of the ever-changing Labor IR landscape, according to **Scott Driscoll** the National President of **United Retail Federation**.

Mr Driscoll said that Julia Gillard was not engaging in an honest debate on its own IR legislation whilst other Ministers had explicitly engaged in “abject lies” about the modelling of the unstable legislative changes throughout the term of the Rudd-Gillard Government.

“The deceptive conduct by the Prime Minister and the abject lies from some of her Ministers regarding the statistical bastardry which has formed the smokescreen for the IR debacle over the term of the Rudd-Gillard Government must be exposed,” Mr Driscoll said.

“The Prime Minister on numerous occasions has practiced deceptive conduct in regards to its own IR modelling that surveyed and assessed only four of the two million small businesses of Australia in the Government’s analysis and justification for the implementation of the IR changes over its term.

“The Small Business Minister has also engaged in explicit and abject lies on the issue in recent media debates with me where he has actually stooped to rejecting and covering up the details of the Government’s own modeling\*, referring to the fact that only four small businesses were assessed as part of the modelling as quote “that’s rubbish...that’s absolutely wrong”.

“The Prime Minister must immediately admit the fact that the modelling relied upon via a retrospect report commissioned by her government, assessing only four of the two million Australian small businesses is meaningless.

“Her Government is ultimately responsible for the mass confusion, the failure of education and understanding of small business on this critical piece of legislation over the term of the Rudd-Gillard Government, given the lies and deception it’s no surprise why,” Mr Driscoll said.

ENDS

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

**Please Note:** Scott Driscoll will be available for Television interviews at a National Independent Retail Conference today at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from 12.30pm

**\*See below:** **1.** Government’s IR Modelling, **2.** Transcript of Gillard comments and **3.** Minister Lies about IR Modelling

**1. Government’s Modelling, please see page 9 where response chart shows 14% of the 30 responses were small businesses which equates to just 4:**

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/NewWorkplaceRelations/Documents/AE\\_Harmonisation.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/NewWorkplaceRelations/Documents/AE_Harmonisation.pdf)

## 2. \*The Hon Julia Gillard MP

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Transcripts/Pages/Article\\_100106\\_172248.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Transcripts/Pages/Article_100106_172248.aspx)

**JOURNALIST:** Ms Gillard, the Retailer's Association says that 3,000 jobs will be lost as a result of the new system around the country. We want to know if any jobs will be lost in Tasmania as a result of the new system?

**JULIA GILLARD:** Well, I've seen that claim from the Retailer's Association. It's my understanding they haven't released the modelling that that claim is based on. The modelling that's available to the Government, which we had undertaken by Access Economics, says that the simplification of the system by having one uniform system for the private sector is worth \$4.8 billion to the national economy and it's worth that amount of money because it will reduce compliance costs for individual businesses.

That's worth cold, hard cash to small businesses having less compliance costs, and that Access Economics modelling makes it clear that because there's less red tape, less compliance costs, we will see more growth in the economy, greater productivity and increased job numbers and at the peak, Access Economics says that reform is worth 5,000 new jobs. That's the modelling available to me.

## 3. Minister for Small Business Minister Lies about IR Modelling

<http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Emerson/Pages/4BCDRIVEWITHMICHAELSMITH1.aspx>

**DRISCOLL:** Craig, you better go and have a talk to your guys because they've actually got it in their email, I've sent it to them earlier today, because your people asked me as well Julia's people. They've got it all. They've got the analysis, they've got the survey result. They've been sitting on it for at least eight hours, mate. I thought you would have been a bit more prepared for this.

**EMERSON:** I am prepared for it, and when I talked to them they did not have that information.

**EMERSON:** And the methodology, as I understand, of your latest survey, is an email survey where some people responded and then you just said; oh, well, that means that this is the situation for all retailers.

**DRISCOLL:** Craig...

**EMERSON:** Just absolutely absurd.

**DRISCOLL:** Craig, how many small business people did Access Economics survey?

**EMERSON:** Access Economics' methodology is sound.

**DRISCOLL:** *That answer's four.*

**EMERSON:** It is a sound - that's rubbish.

**DRISCOLL:** Four.

**EMERSON:** That's absolutely wrong.

**DRISCOLL:** No, Craig, it's actually stated in Access Economics' survey, it's their disclaimer; we

asked four small businesses.