

# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

# Flinders Small Business Report 2015



*at Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm*



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# Helping Small Businesses grow



*enjoying a coffee at Jacque's Café in Hastings  
with owner Jacqueline Allison*

*The \$20,000 instant asset write-off is great news for businesses in the Flinders electorate.*

Small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2 million annually can claim an immediate tax deduction for every asset they acquire that is valued up to \$20,000 for tax purposes – a substantial increase from the previous \$1,000 threshold. There is no limit on the number of assets a small business can acquire.

From 1 July 2015, the government will cut the company tax rate by 1.5 percentage points to 28.5 per cent for incorporated businesses with annual turnover up to \$2 million.

The government will also provide a five per cent tax discount for sole traders, trusts and partnership structures that are unincorporated businesses with annual turnover up to \$2 million, capped at \$1,000, through their end of year tax return.

The new \$5.5 billion Growing Jobs and Small Business package will help small businesses invest more, grow more and employ more.

Hastings café owner Jacqueline Allison plans to use the tax incentives to purchase new tables and chairs and a new ice cream refrigerator. These crucial items will help Jacqueline expand her business and attract new customers to enjoy her terrific coffee.



# Small Businesses find their niche



with Matt Gallace at Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm

## *Sunny Ridge strawberry farmer turns to frozen berries*

It was a pleasure meeting Matt Gallace, son of renowned Sunny Ridge strawberry farmer Mick Gallace at the Main Ridge farm recently.

Matt branched out from his father's business 13 years ago and has made a name for himself producing strawberry wines and Cheeky Rascal ciders under the Rebello brand, which he set up with wife Ruth.

Now he is taking on frozen Australian berries, to be launched nationally under the brand Matilda's.

In the wake of the health scare that linked 28 cases of hepatitis A in Australia to the consumption of imported frozen berries from China, Matt realised there was a demand for Australian grown frozen berries.

It is a market that Matt has always wanted to break into but he says there wasn't consumer demand for it prior to the hepatitis outbreak.

Since the health scare, people have shown greater interest in wanting to purchase locally grown products, inspiring him to launch his frozen berry line.

I look forward to seeing Matilda's frozen Australian berries on shelves around the country very soon.

## *Food labelling community survey*

The Australian Government has been consulting with industry – including growers, processors and retailers – to implement a clearer, more direct system for food labelling that will give consumers the information they want in a way that is easy to read and understand.

All Australians can have their say on what they want in clearer country of origin food labelling in an online survey that will help design the Australian Government's new labelling system. The country of origin food labelling community survey is available at [www.industry.gov.au/cool](http://www.industry.gov.au/cool) or can be requested by calling 13 28 46.



# Supporting Small Business



Looking at the range of dive gear at Extreme Watersport in Rosebud West with owner Steve Dale

## Extreme Watersport

Start-up businesses, following in the footsteps of businesses like Extreme Watersport in Rosebud West, which opened just over two years ago, will soon be able to benefit from tax deductions for professional services.

The changes mean start-up businesses will be able to immediately deduct professional costs associated with starting a business rather than writing them off over five years.

When people start a business, they often need the advice of lawyers and accountants, which can be a drag on cash flow. Allowing these costs to be deducted immediately will mean business owners will be able to invest more in growing the new business, which will in turn create more jobs and foster more prosperous local communities.

These changes will help ease the expenses for businesses during those crucial first months and will apply from the 2015-16 income year.

Small business owners will also be able to change the legal structure of their business without incurring a Capital Gains Tax liability, provided the same owners are retained. This will reduce some of the complexity of starting a new business and provide business owners with more flexibility to determine how they grow.

The government is also removing obstacles to crowd-sourced equity funding, making it easier for small businesses to access the capital they need to grow and thrive.



# Supporting Employers who hire jobseekers



At one of DW Pratt's building sites on the Mornington Peninsula with business partners Darryl Pratt and Garry Moncrieff

## DW Pratt Builders

Businesses like DW Pratt Builders may be able to take advantage of the government's new wage subsidy scheme for employers who hire job seekers.

New measures will focus on making job seekers more employable, reducing the costs of taking on new staff and bringing job seekers and employers together.

The Growing Jobs and Small Business package will assist employers to grow and to employ young job seekers, mature workers, parents and the long-term unemployed.

The government will improve wage subsidy arrangements to create more opportunities for job seekers, especially those aged over 50 years and parents returning to the workforce.

From 1 November 2015, eligible employers will receive up to \$6,500 if they hire an eligible young job seeker under 30 years old, an Indigenous job seeker, a parent returning to the workforce or a long-term unemployed job seeker. Eligible employers will also receive up to \$10,000 under the Restart programme for workers aged 50 years or older.

Employers who hire an eligible job seeker will be able to receive a wage subsidy from the time they start in the job.

## DR Engineering Solutions

It was terrific to meet with Diego Ramirez recently, who set up his business with a desire to be his own boss.

DR Engineering Solutions, based in Balnarring, offers engineering design and technical support to businesses.

It uses the latest high performance computer systems to deliver 3D design, drafting, simulation, digital prototyping and visualisation of the complete engineering process.



# 500km Walk for Autism



playing with two-year-old Luke who has autism

In July this year, I will embark on a 500km walk around my electorate to increase awareness about Autism and raise money for Abacus Learning Centre and Amaze (Autism Victoria).

Abacus Learning Centre is a not-for-profit organisation based in Hastings that works with children who have autism and provides much-needed therapy to help these children reach their goals.

Amaze does fantastic work in raising the profile of autism and supports more than 55,000 Victorians with autism and their families.

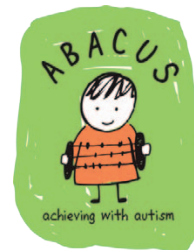
Both of these organisations do a tremendous job to help people living with autism, which is why I have chosen to support them.

Throughout the 19 day walk, I will visit 58 schools in my electorate to raise awareness of autism.

I invite you to join my 500km Walk for Autism or make a donation.

Businesses may also like to assist in raising funds by hosting a donation tin.

For more information, please phone my office on (03) 5979 3188.



## Small Business Survey

*As your Federal Member, I am committed to ensuring a better deal for our local business community.*

*I receive a lot of feedback and suggestions through meetings, community functions and phone calls and your input does make a difference.*

*I am keen to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting small businesses. I would be happy to visit your business and discuss issues of concern with you.*

*A consistent issue is the lack of adequate broadband coverage. The rollout of the NBN is happening faster than ever since the Coalition Government took office.*

*Changes to the NBN rollout will save \$32 billion and will see upgrades delivered four years sooner than under Labor. This will prevent internet retail bills increasing by up to \$43 a month, keeping it affordable for consumers.*

*Please provide your feedback or concerns by completing the short survey overleaf and returning it to my office.*

Kind regards



# Small Business Survey

## THE ISSUES

*Please number the four issues that concern you most:*

- ☐ Cost of electricity and utilities
- ☐ Cost and availability of finance
- ☐ Difficulty in doing business with governments
- ☐ Too much paperwork and red tape for small business
- ☐ Union interference in the workplace
- ☐ Unfair trade practice of big business
- ☐ Access to government programs and support
- ☐ Impact of labour costs on your business

In your view, what is the most important action the Coalition Government could take to help small businesses?

What is the one piece of government red tape that you think should be removed?

I'd appreciate you taking a moment to complete this survey and help me learn more about how we can best assist your business.

## ABOUT POLITICS *(optional)*

*Please select one of the following:*

I **ALWAYS** support the following party

- ☐ Liberals ☐ Labor
- ☐ Greens ☐ Independent/Other

OR I **USUALLY** support the following party

- ☐ Liberals ☐ Labor
- ☐ Greens ☐ Independent/Other

OR ☐ I don't support any political party

Would you like me to visit your small business?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive regular updates on what is happening in Flinders via email?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Please complete the following details so I can stay in touch and keep you updated:*

Business Name

TitleName

Address

Business Ph.

Mobile Ph.

Email

Please return  
completed survey to

**Email:** greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au  
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