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Since commencing to operate a small business as a consultant project manager eight years ago and having communicated widely in the community, there are several issues which the Commonwealth Government could directly influence to result in enhanced outcomes for "workers over 45 years of age seeking employment, or establishing a a business following unemployment"

1. most workers over 45 have significant experience, and in many cases an ability to add to the wealth of the community and country by calling on this experience to develop improved ways of doing what has always been done in the past. I do not think many people would argue that this potential exists.
2. the bureaucrats in some large commonwealth and state government departments have in recent years adopted an approach to doing business with the private sector of dealing almost exclusively with large private sector organisations. ( Taxpayers dollars going through the public service into large private sector organisations)
3. many large private sector organisations are wholly or significantly owned by overseas interests, with significant profits ( taxpayers dollars) going overseas.
4. many people over 45 who wish to start a business where they can add value to the community and the country, and keep taxpayer dollars in Australia, who have been sacked by large private sector organisations, wholly or significantly owned by overseas interests, are prevented by the systems established by beauracrats from providing services to the commonwealth or state government because they are not large private sector organisations.
5. some public servants say that the small operators just do not have the infrastructure to deal with the needs of the public service. this is patently untrue, as most small business operators are quite capable of employing contract administrators, or other "infrastructure" type services.
6. most small operators deal with the devil, large private sector organisations, to achieve an income. Their margins are low. Their staff numbers are low. They do not have a lot of time to organise as cooperatives or in associations. When they do, the experience has been that it will not succed in getting business from the state or commonwealth government, as the large private sector organisation wins, sometimes at a greater cost than if the small business grouping were used. Reasons given by public servants inevitably sound like " you did not have the infrastructure that .... had. The winning team adressed the selection criteria better ( many over 45 year old people know that selection criteria are developed and weighted in tender situations to favour pre determined choices )

Examples are able to be provided to support all of the above statements. I submit that the Commonwealth can significantly influence the ability of over 45 year olds in establishing a business

1. by developing and implementing genuine strategies and action plans that favour small business operators over large overseas owned private sector organisations, for services provided to the commonwealth. I would be pleased to amplify this point if asked to do so.
2. by taking measures to ensure that state and local governments who receive commonwealth funding take measures to ensure that small business operators receive preferential treatment. I would be pleased to amplify this point if asked to do so.
3. by ensuring that commonwealth and state public servants are not responsible for any programme to implement the strategies. I would be pleased to amplify this point if asked to do so.
4. by ensuring that existing small business associations, who perhaps have vested interests are not responsible for developing and implementing the strategies and actions
5. by taking measures, and perhaps providing funding, to develop and grow some forms of effective small business enterprises, an example would be cooperatives which were once common in Australia, and successful at the time that they were common.