

-----Original Message-----

From: Greater Green Triangle Area Consultative Committee Inc
[mailto:ggtacc@netconnect.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 7 June 2002 14:42
To: 'eet.sen@aph.gov.au.'
Subject: Inquiry into Small Business Employment

The Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations &
Education References Committee
Suite S1.61 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

re Inquiry into Small Business Employment

I am writing to make comment to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the above topic.

My comments are directed particularly towards no. 2 of the Terms of Reference i.e.

“The special needs and circumstances, of small business, and the key factors that have an effect on the capacity of small business to employ small business”.

During the past 2 years the Greater Green Triangle Area Consultative Committee (GGT ACC) has worked closely with small business operators throughout our vast region (29% of Victoria) and through that process have gained a good understanding of the main issues that concern and impact on small business on “day to day operations” and their ability to “grow their business”.

Our contact was primarily through the G.S.T. Sign Post Officer who was employed by the Area Consultative Committee (ACC) from April 2000 to 29th June 2002.

The role of the G.S.T. Sign Post Officer was to assist and advise small and medium business and community groups on the introduction of the New Tax System from 1st July, 2000.

On the 1st July, 2001 the ACC received funding to employ a Small Business Assistance Officer. The ACC re-engaged the officer who had been carrying out the role of the G.S.T. Sign Post Officer.

This officer, in carrying out the activities on GST and Small Business, has gained an appreciation of the key factors that have an effect on the capacity of small business to employ more people.

In his opinion the key factors are

- v Taxation Issues i.e. understanding the system and assistance available from the ATO
- v Staff Recruitment including “Hiring & Firing”
- v Employer/employee obligations
- v Workplace agreements
- v Unfair dismissal, unlawful termination
- v Awarding unfair dismissal claims
- v Workcover obligations
- v Safety in the workplace

As you would appreciate these topics fall under Commonwealth, State and Local Government control.

In order to address these issues, the ACC has arranged a number of seminars across the region. The seminars are free of charge and aimed at employers and business advisors.

The seminars commence at 6-00pm and last approximately two hours. The ACC has been able to obtain guest presenters from various government departments and agencies.

The seminars have been held at Colac, Hamilton, Stawell, St Arnaud and Ararat.

The seminars have been well attended and feedback from small business has been positive.

During the seminars it has been brought to our attention that some small/micro business operators are not well equipped in understanding “marketing/advertising” issues for their business.

We plan to run seminars in the future primarily on marketing/advertising.

We also plan to involve the ACCC in these workshops.

Please find enclosed a copy of a flyer we used to promote our seminars.

I am also sending these comments to you electronically.

I am available to discuss any of these comments in more detail if required.

Yours sincerely

Pat McAloon
Executive Officer

7th June, 2002

P F McAloon
Executive Officer
Greater Green Triangle ACC
P O Box 610
Ararat Vic 3377

Phone: 03 5352 3935 Fax: 03 5352 4311 e-mail ggtacc@netconnect.com.au