



media release

Tasmanian Liberals

Will Hodgman MP

Leader of the Opposition

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Small business needs more support

The Leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman, today said that there are worrying signs in the TCCI business expectations survey.

“We know that the Government will try and blame global economic conditions for a deterioration in business confidence, but what the survey actually shows is the business community has lost confidence in the Government,” Mr Hodgman said.

Three out of the top five concerns relate to areas that are the direct responsibility of the Government, including the number one concern in the business community - the availability of qualified employees.

“Each year at Budget time, we hear the Government trumpet its latest skills initiative, dressing up the previous year’s program with new spin and then claiming that it will solve the business community’s problems.

“But what we know to be true about this Labor Government is they are all spin and no substance and they are incapable of delivering the outcomes they promise. We’ve seen it in health, education, infrastructure and now we’re seeing it in small business.

“A lack of skilled employees has been the number one concern for small business for the past six years.

“Mr Bartlett’s recent economic vision statement left a lot to be desired. It all but ignored the essential cogs in our economy: small business, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and mining.

“The Liberal Party has always been the party of small business. A Hodgman Liberal Government will make sure small business receives the attention and support that it needs, because if economic conditions continue to soften, we will need our small business sector to be as healthy as possible to drive our economy forward,” Mr Hodgman said.

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