

Media Release

From the Project Officer of the Mildura Chamber of Commerce Inc.



MILDURA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE INC.

Promoting Business Excellence

Wednesday, 4 July 2007

“Businesses in Mildura are very well placed to take advantage of Government’s commitment to ensuring that businesses of all sizes are given a fair go when dealing with each other” the President of the Mildura Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Paula Mastrippolito said today.

Ms. Mastrippolito said that membership of the Chamber provided local businesses with the ideal structure to engage in collective bargaining practices that can help them deal with these issues.

“It is now easier than ever for businesses to reap the benefits of collective bargaining. This can also mean more benefits to the public such as better services and increased choice” Ms. Mastrippolito said.

The head of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Graeme Samuel said last night that he was frustrated that small businesses have failed to use the laws introduced last year that allow them to collectively bargain.

He identified small retailers as the group who would have the most to gain by speaking with one voice.

The Trade Practices Act provides a process for Australian businesses who want to collectively bargain. The Act has now been amended to make it easier for businesses to come together and deal in the interests of the retailers and their customers.

Ms. Mastrippolito said “The Chamber can present a united and credible voice in advocating on behalf of the Mildura business community. As a member based organisation the strength of the Chamber of Commerce comes from its independence, and from its membership.”

“The Mildura Chamber of Commerce is an independent representative of business, whose role is to actively represent, advocate and promote opportunities, on behalf of its members through a collective role”, she said

Ms. Mastrippolito said that through active participation in the Chamber, businesses are able to gather together and to give themselves strength of bargain. She believes small tenants in big shopping centres would be well served by the new collective bargaining provisions. “The biggest problem, though, was getting retailers to speak with one voice.”

Chamber Project Officer, John Fitzgibbon said today “We are urging local business to consider their collective strength through their peak business body, the Chamber of Commerce. Businesses that required further support should contact the office as

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soon as possible.”

Mr. Fitzgibbon said that resources were available through the Chamber for small individual businesses to join forces in their best interests and in the interests of the Mildura Community.

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