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MEDIA RELEASE

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HOWARD GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION CHANGE GOOD FOR SMALL BUSINESS

The Howard Government's proposed changes to superannuation policy will bring benefits to small business.

The Federal initiative could potentially provide a significant boost to small businesses in Victoria, providing an opportunity for experienced older people to work for and with business owners.

Many small business owners have difficulty in recruiting staff with the range of skills and experience required in a small company, particularly in manufacturing firms.

While industry and governments must address skills shortages through education and training programs for younger people, this Howard Government initiative will provide an opportunity to address the skills shortage issue in the short term.

There is a need to change attitudes in many business environments that younger workers are better than older workers.

The reality is older workers are reliable and can be every bit as productive as a younger worker and they bring invaluable experience and industry knowledge to the workplace.

Businesses also need to recognise that there is a looming shortfall in the number of younger workers available.

There may, however, be a need to impress upon older workers the need to be more flexible in their attitudes and approach to dynamic and changing workplaces using new technologies, processes and management/staffing structures.

Small businesses are ideally placed to employ older workers who want to continue working or to return to the workforce under the new Howard Government policy.

Small businesses will identify the opportunities available in tapping in to the skills and experience of older workers and, by choosing the right people, they could well gain a competitive advantage.

This is an important policy change for small business and the Howard Government deserves congratulations.

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