



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

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RUDD BACK-DOWN GOOD FOR JOB SEEKERS

The Coalition welcomes the government's back-down from its decision to scrap face-to-face interviews between job seekers and Centrelink.

"This latest back-down is most welcome, because regular quality contact between job seekers and Centrelink is important," Shadow Minister for Employment Participation Mathias Cormann said.

"It is important if we are to get job seekers back into work as quickly as possible and it is important to ensure compliance with mutual obligation requirements is properly monitored and enforced," he said.

"The Rudd government's decision to scrap face-to-face interviews between job seekers and Centrelink was an ill thought out decision all along.

"They are all over the place in their approach to job seekers," he said.

"Today they're announcing the introduction of face-to-face interviews as a 'tough on job seekers measure' when it was the Rudd government which removed that requirement in the first place.

"Only last month, the Rudd government promoted that change, which was to come into effect on 1 July 2010 as 'the biggest change to job seeker interaction with Centrelink in decades'.

"Criticised by the Coalition, Minister Bowen defended himself saying it would do away with unnecessary time spent reporting and allowed people more time looking for work.

"For the Rudd government to sell this announcement today as 'getting tough' on job seekers, really is taking spin to a whole new level even for this government," Senator Cormann said.

"What other bad decisions by the Rudd government in this area will be reversed in time for the next election," Senator Cormann asked.

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