



Media Release

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

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OVERALL JOB FIGURES WELCOMED – BUT THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL

While the slight improvement in overall unemployment figures in December 2009 is welcome, the Rudd government needs to start focusing on some of the hidden problems in our labour market Shadow Employment Participation Minister Mathias Cormann said today.

Senator Cormann was commenting after the release of the latest ABS job figures which showed an overall unemployment rate across Australia of 5.5%.

“Yes these overall figures are better than anyone expected this time last year – however Australians have had enough of watching the Rudd Labor government pat themselves on the back about the supposed impact of their reckless and wasteful spending.

“The Government must pull back on its reckless spending or Australians will pay for it with higher interest rates, higher taxes and higher unemployment into the future.

“And it is time the government started to get more serious and more focused about our unacceptably high levels of youth unemployment, the ever increasing number of long term unemployed, as well as the very real challenges faced in a number of unemployment hotspots across Australia.

Since the election of the Rudd Labor government:

- Youth unemployment across Australia has increased from 13.7% in December 2007 to 16.4% in December 2009 (Source: ABS)
- The number of long term unemployed has increased from 67,100 in November 2007 to 103,300 in November 2009 (Source: ABS)
- The number of long-term Newstart Allowees has increased by about 40,000 over the twelve months to November 2009, taking the total number from 251,170 to 291,114; (Source: DEEWR);
- Unemployment in Far North Queensland has gone up from 5.1% in November 2007 to 10.3% in November 2009, in Fairfield-Liverpool NSW from 4.16% to 6.1% and in North Adelaide from 5.7% to 7.2% (Source: ABS).

“Expect things to worsen further once the fallout from Labor’s anti-small business and anti-jobs workplace relations changes work their way through our economy, or if Labor were successful in getting their anti-jobs emissions tax passed by the Parliament,” Senator Cormann said.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Senator Cormann - 0411 874 546
Joe Shanahan (Media Adviser) - 0411222420/ 0262773453