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EDITORIAL

Since 1998 the ACCC has conducted a small business program which aims to ensure its enforcement and compliance functions recognise the special needs of small businesses. It does not mean the ACCC can solve all small business problems but it tries to make what we do, and the Trade Practices Act that we administer, understandable, accessible and relevant to small business.

As part of this the ACCC Small Business Unit operates a substantial outreach program through an Australia-wide network linked to chambers of commerce, business enterprise centres and local government Councils. Through this network our dedicated outreach offices in each state provide user-friendly information, seminars and direct advice to small businesses, especially in rural and regional areas.

We are conscious that these linkages need continual improvement and we regularly upgrade our processes, publications, website material and overall accessibility to small business.

In this addition of *update* you will find a snapshot of some of our latest small business activities, including streamlining our collective bargaining arrangements, improving access to small business advice and helping business owners protect themselves from cartels.

John Martin

Commissioner for Small Business

This publication is available online at www.accc.gov.au.

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