



PRIME MINISTER

4/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P.J. KEATING, MP
SMALL BUSINESS COALITION

I have today asked the Minister for Small Business, Construction and Customs, Mr Beddall, to convene a meeting with the Small Business Coalition at the earliest opportunity.

I will attend the meeting which will follow talks with small and large business and unions already arranged for Sydney and Melbourne over the next two weeks.

The Small Business Coalition, which represents more than 30 organisations, traditionally meets the Minister for Small Business and other Ministers twice a year at a Small Business Forum to put an agreed position to the Government on small business issues. I last met the Coalition as Treasurer in April last year.

As the largest employer of the Australian workforce it is important the Government seeks the views of small business in the lead-up to the Economic Statement.

Although business people from all States will be involved in the meetings in Sydney and Melbourne the Small Business Coalition has a much broader representative base in the small business sector.

It includes small business organisations such as COSBOA (Council of Small Business Associations of Australia) and ASBA (Australian Small Business Association). Other members include the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Motor Trades Association, the Australian Tourism Industry Association, the Retail Traders Association and the Master Builders Construction and Housing Association.

Larger business organisations such as the Confederation of Australian Industry, the Australian Chamber of Manufactures, the Metal Trades Industry Association and the National Farmers Federation, which have large numbers of small business members, are also represented.

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