



**THE HON BRENDAN O'CONNOR MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND  
WORKPLACE RELATIONS  
MEMBER FOR GORTON**

**THE HON JULIE COLLINS MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**TASMANIAN BUSINESSES TO BE SWAMPED BY 780,000 JOB  
APPLICATIONS A MONTH**

Businesses in Tasmania would be swamped by more than 780,000 applications a month if Prime Minister Tony Abbott green lights a plan to force job seekers, including those under-30 receiving no support at all, to apply for 40 jobs a month.

In Hobart meeting with employment bodies and social support groups, Shadow Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Brendan O'Connor said Mr Abbott's plan was cruel and counter-productive.

"Tasmania already has the highest rate of unemployment in the country at 7.6 per cent, the last thing a small business owner needs is to be hit by an avalanche of half-baked applications," Mr O'Connor said.

"With more than 19,500 people looking for work in Tasmania, that's 780,000 applications flooding the in-trays of businesses each and every month.

"Julie Collins, Senator Catryna Bilyk and I met with representatives of employment providers and social services to discuss the potential consequences of forcing job seekers to apply for 40 jobs a month, particularly for those young people under-30 who would receive not a cent of support for six months every year."

Shadow Employment Services Minister Julie Collins said with small business making up the majority of businesses in Tasmania, such an arbitrary scheme would create unnecessary red tape for businesses that aren't equipped to deal with it.

"In return for receiving support, of course young people should have to look for work and complete certain duties," Ms Collins said.

"But to force a young person who is receiving absolutely no government support to apply for 40 jobs every four weeks is counter-productive, cruel and unnecessary.

"Mr Abbott wants to kill off mutual obligation once and for all.

"Instead of blaming and penalising job seekers, Mr Abbott should turn his attention to delivering on his promise to create jobs for Tasmanians."

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