

Media Release
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**ASPIA AND AFLA HOST INDUSTRY BRIEFING WITH SHADOW MINISTER FOR
FINANCE, DEREGULATION AND DEBT REDUCTION, ANDREW ROBB**

ASPIA and AFLA today welcomed the Federal Coalition's confirmation that it will not proceed with the Labor Government's damaging changes to Fringe Benefits Tax arrangements if it wins government on September 7.

Addressing a motor and related industry meeting in Melbourne today, Shadow Minister for Finance, Deregulation and Debt Reduction, the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP told approximately 100 industry delegates that a Coalition government would not proceed with Labor's damaging FBT measure.

"This was a dreadful decision by the Rudd Government, right up there with the disastrous snap ban on the live cattle industry," Mr Robb told the briefing arranged by the Australian Salary Packaging Industry Association (ASPIA) and Australian Fleet Lessors Association (AFLA).

"On the eve of the election we felt it was vitally important to reassure the sector that should the Coalition be elected, this ill-conceived, \$1.8 billion hit on the economy and jobs will not proceed."

ASPIA Leigh Penberthy said this was a very important meeting and had provided the industry with some real confidence after a very tough period.

"We are delighted Mr Robb accepted our invitation to attend this important briefing. It again reflects the Coalition's interest and support of the sector from day one. Regrettably we have not been able to achieve the same level of engagement with the Government despite numerous requests and a commitment from the Prime Minister to arrange the necessary meetings."

"The Rudd Labor Government has scrambled to repair the damage caused by this proposed change through the \$200 million industry handout and further contribution to the auto transformation fund. These so-called band aids are designed to help the supply side of the equation ignoring the fact that a sledge hammer has been taken to demand stimulus by this ill-conceived FBT change," Mr Penberthy said.

"Our industry was dealt a devastating blow on 16 July. Today's positive meeting has added to the welcome news received via the open letter to the Australian Car Industry from the Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott and Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey. It confirmed that should the Coalition be elected Labor's proposed, but not legislated, FBT changes will immediately become null and void."

"These key developments, along with the ongoing support from the Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry and Science Sophie Mirabella, have been our only glimmer of hope for the continuing prosperity of the motor and related industries and the 320,000 associated workers and their families."

"This confidence will be further boosted with a change of government on Saturday," added Mr Penberthy.

About ASPIA

Representing 25 Member organisations across Australia who are responsible for the administration of Fringe Benefits Tax arrangements for circa 750,000 Australian employees, ASPIA provides a focus for the discussion of the overarching legislative and taxation issues affecting providers within the growing outsourced Salary Packaging industry and their corporate and individual employee clients.

ASPIA ensures that the industry has a voice across the areas within both Government and the Tax Office to ensure consultation occurs and that this organisation provides Government and Treasury with the leverage available from the collective membership of the association.

The association also sets minimum guidelines in relation to service and inter-provider engagement as well as providing a complaints handling facility for member firms customers.

For more information please visit: www.aspia.com.au or www.whosnext.com.au

For further information please contact:

Ian Coutts, Spokesperson
ASPIA
M: 0411 107 889

Rod North, Managing Director,
Bourse Communications Pty Ltd
T: (03) 9510 8309, M: 0408 670 706,
E: rod@boursecommunications.com.au