

JULIA GILLARD M.P.

Deputy Labor Leader
Shadow Minister for Employment & Industrial Relations
Shadow Minister for Social Inclusion

LABOR ANNOUNCEMENT:
National Work and Family Awards

Today, Julia Gillard announced that a Rudd Labor Government will maintain and expand the National Work and Family Awards, a successful joint business and government initiative.

Labor plans to expand the number of available awards to include new awards for leaders in the various industries such as retail, mining, hospitality, manufacturing and finance to reflect the fact that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to balancing work and family.

The winners of the awards will be publicly acknowledged and their achievements highlighted to potential employees.

Labor will fund and support the development and promotion of a special symbol that can be used by winners in print and online job advertisements for a period of three years from winning the award.

As part of the National Work and Family Awards, Labor proposes to accredit all employers that obtain certain standards in relation to the achievement of work-family balance.

The existing National Work and Family Awards are a joint government and business partnership with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Australia.

Since 1992, the Awards have recognised the achievements of many businesses to develop policies and programs to assist their employees to balance their work and family responsibilities.

Further details will be developed in consultation with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Australia which we hope will continue to offer their wonderful support for the awards.

Labor's approach to the National Work and Family Awards is just one small piece of the puzzle of meeting the challenges of balancing work and family life.

With the right encouragement, businesses can be endlessly creative about the means of leading change in their business. By facilitating change and creating the incentives for change, Labor's fresh approach will help Australians balance work and family life.

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