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Value of small business recognised by Dutton



Small business can expect more support from the government in 2018, according to Minister for Immigration and Border Security, Peter Dutton.

Mr Dutton was in Wagga on Monday with Member for Riverina and Minister for Small Business, Michael McCormack, for the 10th anniversary commemoration and graduation ceremony at the Rex (Regional Express) Airlines-owned Australian Airline Pilot Academy on Monday.

The \$32 million academy has seen 200 Rex pilots graduate in the past decade, with another 170 training for others, including Vietnam Airlines.

“We need to highlight local success stories,” Mr Dutton said.

“Look at Rex here. The growth over the course of the last 10 years in the academy and the money they spend locally, with the butcher, with the suppliers, all of that adds up to profits for local businesses which means they can employ additional staff, or put on another apprentice.

“From the government’s perspective, by cutting the tax rate for small business, it means they can put it back into buying a vehicle, which helps the local car dealer. It means they can upgrade their shop, which helps local tradespeople.

“These are the stories we need to highlight because there are pockets of great success around the country which build into the thousand jobs a day that we are creating.

“There’s a lot more, particularly in 2018, that you’ll see from the Turnbull Government in trying to support local business right across the country because small business, where we all come from, is the big driver of employment in this country.

“If we want the economy to continue so successfully and to improve in areas where it is soft at the moment, small business is going to lead that charge.”

Mr McCormack said latest statistics pointed to the Australian economy being “very strong”.

“Just the last lot of statistics out about employment levels and confidence – small business confidence – in the economy is very good.

“Those statistics have given the economy a bit of a jump leading into this very busy retail period leading up to Christmas and I hope – and I’m certain – that businesses will reflect upon that confidence and indeed that retail sales will be strong and good.”

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