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**Sent:** Sunday, 11 August 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** RG - Black Economy <Blackeconomy@treasury.gov.au>  
**Cc:** michael.sukkar.mp@aph.gov.au; stephen.jones.mp@aph.gov.au; Anne.Webster.MP@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Restrictions on the Use of Cash Bill

Attention: Manager - Black Economy Division

The final report from the Black Economy Taskforce make much of the issue of cash payments to workers and frequently mentions overseas workers on working holiday or student visas.

The use of cash to pay back packers and undocumented workers in the Mallee region has been a long standing and well-known issue.  I have had private meetings with our previous member Andrew Broad and attended public meetings to discuss worker shortages for Horticulture where this issue has been raised as being part of the problem.  As I’ve stated several times before, visa conditions are the tool of choice for unscrupulous dodgy contractors wishing to exploit overseas workers.

This is exacerbated by the increase in the Backpacker Tax and the withholding of 65% of these workers superannuation when they leave the country, which results in the incentive for workers to negotiate any number of cash arrangements.  **The most co-ordinated and systematic theft of wages for these people is being perpetrated by the Australian Government and is costing both workers and legitimate contractors alike.**

No doubt this will be part of the justification for the new Restrictions on the Use of Cash Bill.  Let it be stressed, the government has been very well aware of this for many years.  Andrew Broad boasted three (3) times in my presence (twice in private meetings and once in a public meeting at Euston in June 2018) that when it is harvest season, he “rings up Dutton’s Office and tells him to call his troops off”. My discussions with him revealed that he was perfectly well aware of the underpayment of workers and cash transactions.

Other cosy, chummy arrangements such as those between Dutton and Crown Casino are now revealing just how duplicitously and inconsistently the rules are being applied.

I note with interest that this interview with Helen Edwards (money laundering whistle blower) about her plight mentions that she approached her local member (Andrew Broad no less) and received nothing but scorn. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiCILt343UY>

Our industry has been begging for genuine and honest dialogue with the government over the issues of worker shortages and visa restrictions which are strangling our businesses.  All of the problems could have been addressed under existing laws if they were being applied.  Instead it has been left to fester for so long that now we have legislation to address Modern Day Slavery.  Where have Fair Work and Boarder Protection been for the last decade in Sunraysia?

Similarly, in relation to dodgy contractors - "We issued 180,000 ABNs last year to people on tourist visas who are not allowed to have an ABN" - said Michael Andrew, chairman of the Black Economy Taskforce

The $10000 limit is too low and this legislation is another example of government covering their own failings and protecting the real perpetrators of large-scale crimes such as money laundering eg. Commonwealth Bank!!  This legislation merely punishes the smaller businesses, tradies, farmers and citizens.

Global citizens paid for the bailing of the banks once already and as we enter the era of negative interest rates and the new global debt bubble is reported to be the biggest in world history with the debt as a proportion of global GDP at 300%.

Australian citizens paying their hairdresser in cash **are not part of the problem.**  Australian citizens using their own legal tender **do not have a cultural problem**.  Australian citizens are sick of seeing wholesale pillaging, such as has been carried out by the banks, while we have every aspect of our lives over-scrutinized and invaded.

In case no-one noticed the seat of Mallee went from a huge lead in first preference votes to our new Member literally falling in by the skin of her teeth.  The voters are seriously pissed.  Is it any wonder?

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