

For Immediate release
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AUSTRALIA COULD LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS FROM EUROPE

In the closing session of COSBOA's Vodafone National Small Business Summit today (Thursday 16th July); Mike Rich, CEO of Attache, said Australia needs to follow the lead of the UK and Europe, when it comes to the interests of small and medium sized businesses.

Referencing the M Institute report in the UK, which says the label 'small business' is misleading and it's not about size but growth aspiration.

He went onto say that Europe focuses more on small and medium business than Australia; even though there's 300,000 enterprises fitting that description in the country and they don't get much attention and are near invisible when it comes to the political wave.

In the report, from the UK, which looked at ways to grow the economy and create jobs, it identified three steps for growth, which were touched on at the summit today, these were: confidence to grow, building skills and plugging the finance gap.

Mr Rich said: "I put forward to Governance, both Local and Federal, we could get the team who were involved in that report out to Australia, in a matter of a few weeks, to update it on how it would apply to Australia. They would need to be paid, because cost of not doing it would be greater. This would provide us with a plan of what to do in the sector – and maybe it could be funded by one or two less government adverts, we're not talking much at all."

Joining Mike on the panel was Oliver Yates, CEO of Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Kathryn Bordanaro, Director and GM of All Biz Finance Brokers.

The Vodafone National Small Business Summit continues tomorrow and is opened by the Hon Joe Hockey MP.

- ENDS -

For further information please contact:

Debbie Bradley or Zoe Guest, Zadro Agency

E: Debbie@zadroagency.com.au or zoe@zadroagency.com.au

T: (02) 9212 7867

Notes to Editors

1. The Council of Small Business Australia (COSBOA) was founded in 1977 and was incorporated in 1979.
2. COSBOA is Australia's peak body exclusively representing the interests of small businesses.

3. The VODAFONE National Small Business Summit 2015 will be held at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney on 16 and 17 July.
4. The VODAFONE National Small Business provides the small business sector with the opportunity to discuss and identify relevant issues, promote innovation and generate ideas to stimulate growth within the industry.
5. For more information about the summit visit:
www.nationalsmallbusinesssummit.com.au
6. For more information on COSBOA visit: <http://www.cosboa.org.au/>
7. Interviews with Peter Strong, CEO are available upon request.
8. Connect through social media channels:

Facebook: [/COSBOA](https://www.facebook.com/COSBOA)
Twitter: [@COSBOA](https://twitter.com/COSBOA)

Hashtag: [#NSBS15](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NSBS15)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/cosboa>
9. COSBOA is a long-time advocate of small business on issues from taxation and workplace relations, through to competition law and retail tenancy.
10. The goals of COSBOA are to promote and support the development of small businesses in Australia and the council recognises that it is a national imperative for Australia that the needs of small business are on the national policy agenda.