



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Minister for Human Services

Senator for Queensland

Sid Sidebottom MP

Member for Braddon

Thursday 16 April 2009

Centrelink help for local redundancies

Centrelink is making free on-site appointments available to Caterpillar workers affected by recent redundancy announcements.

Minister for Human Services, Senator Joe Ludwig, and Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, are urging retrenched workers to contact Centrelink as soon as possible to take advantage of these appointments.

“I understand this is a very stressful time for all families affected by job losses,” Senator Ludwig said.

“Centrelink is ready to assist people get back on their feet as soon as possible during these difficult times.”

“It’s important people don’t self-assess and exclude themselves from the help that is available.”

“Centrelink’s Financial Information Service Officers will look at each individual’s circumstances and discuss with them what assistance they are entitled to.”

“Centrelink may also refer workers made redundant to an employment service provider where they will receive assistance to get back into the labour market.”

“A worker who has been made redundant is often eligible for personal and intensive support services and practical support. This includes training and accreditation, assistance in acquiring work clothes, tools and equipment and help with job interviews and resumes.”

Mr Sidebottom said last week’s announcement was very sad news for local Caterpillar workers and their families.

“Nobody wants to see job losses as a result of the global recession and I encourage displaced workers to contact Centrelink immediately,” he said.

“Centrelink is working closely with a range of local job services providers to ensure workers have the best possible support in finding other employment.”

“Financial Information Service Officers are also available to help people make more informed financial decisions.”

Anyone affected by redundancy or retrenchment can make an appointment with a Financial Information Service Officer by calling Centrelink on 13 2850.

Senator Ludwig’s Media Contact: Sarah Cosson 0423 823 843 or (02) 6277 7200
Mr Sidebottom’s Media Contact: Luke Sayer 0458 311 355