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Henderson to tackle small business issues.

Paid maternity leave options and improving economic outcomes for Indigenous people in business will be discussed by Federal, State and Territory Ministers at a small business meeting in Sydney today.

Minister for Business, Industry and Resource Development Paul Henderson said public liability insurance was another key issue that would be tackled at the annual Small Business Ministerial Council.

"All jurisdictions have been grappling with the impost on business of changes to public liability insurance premiums," Mr Henderson said.

"This Ministerial Council will give us the opportunity to compare notes about how jurisdictions have addressed these problems and to encourage the insurance industry to make similar efforts to provide a fair and comprehensive public liability insurance system in Australia."

Mr Henderson said the objective of the Council was to provide a forum for Ministers to discuss small business issues of mutual interest.

"A big issue will be improving Indigenous economic outcomes, and identifying ways to further develop Indigenous small business," Mr Henderson said.

"We will be looking at developing more targeted and co-ordinated assistance to Indigenous Australians in the pre-business and post-business establishment phase, as well as other initiatives like cultural awareness training."

The Council will also examine:

- The impact of changes to taxation and banking laws on small business;
- The impact of Federal legislation, including the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act and the Trade Practices Act, on small business
- New electronic commerce techniques
- Business skills training issues