

MEDIA RELEASE

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SHARING ECONOMY REVOLUTION THREATENED BY OVER-REGULATION: NEW REPORT

“The sharing economy could be an economic revolution, but only if government lets the revolution happen,” said Chris Berg, Senior Fellow at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

New IPA research released today, *The sharing economy: how over-regulation could destroy an economic revolution*, authored by IPA Research Fellow Darcy Allen and Mr Berg, was featured in *The Australian* this morning.

“Services like Airbnb, Uber, Kickstarter, Airtasker, Open Shed, and Zopa are disrupting traditional industries to bring benefits to consumers and producers alike. They mean cheaper services, fewer middlemen, and a more sustainable use of resources.”

“But if we are going to realise the revolutionary potential of these new businesses, regulators need to get out of the way,” says Mr Berg.

The report recommends:

- Deregulating occupational licensing to allow private certification and reputation mechanisms to evolve;
- Freeing employment laws to facilitate independent contracting;
- Avoiding industry-specific regulation that stifles entrepreneurial entry; and
- A greater understanding that regulating new technologies by default is a burden on both customers and entrepreneurs.

“We must make Australia a country where entrepreneurs are allowed to experiment and develop revolutionary new products and services.”

“Regulating the sharing economy in the same way we regulate traditional industries will only slow economic growth at the detriment of consumers,” says Mr Berg.

The IPA’s new report, *The Sharing Economy: how over-regulation could destroy an economic revolution*, is available to download [here](#).

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