

# Send us less gloomy Gold Coast job news, Sarina

**J** OBS and training dynamo Sarina Russo is warning unemployment could hit 10 per cent on the Gold Coast early next year.

Not exactly the rebound news the Gold Coast is looking for as tourism scrambles to reverse the economic downturn.

The salty Coast warning is backed by her local feedback and is spared of any comfort for the Rudd Government.

The Russo Group has retained its job offices in Biggera Waters, Nerang and Palm Beach despite the loss of federal government contracts. Under the Rudd Government jobs distribution is heading for non-profit organisations.

It will be interesting to see how accurate the Russo unemployment forecast turns out once the private sector starts to be squeezed out of the jobs market.

Ms Russo's Gold Coast credentials include a property portfolio. She bought her first Main Beach apartment in 1983. Throw a property auction and there is every chance she will turn up. Probably inconspicuously to ensure she does not bid above the going rate.

'Send us some more Sarina' charges for her employment services including billing those employers who hire her recommended job seekers.

"But I started without a government subsidy," she reminded *The Bulletin*.

The Russo jobs warning may sound pessimistic but after 30 years in the business her survival skills deserve a nod.

First she had to overthrow the expectations of her Sicilian family that she would settle down as a wife and mother. She did that with honours.

When *The Bulletin* tracked her down yesterday to ratify the grim jobs forecast the single-minded Ms Russo was waiting to catch a flight to Britain.

Her publicity shyness was long since overcome. A meeting with barrister Cherie Blair, wife of the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is top priority this week.

But only after checking on her job seekers' office in Birmingham and opening her next in London.

She will be back in the departure lounge in September with plans to catch up with former United States president Bill Clinton in New York. It seems the Clinton Global Initiative program has not lost any gas since his presidential years start to dim and wife Hillary has taken over wearing the pants as US Secretary of State.

Ms Russo and Bill Clinton go back a way. She once organised a lavish dinner for the former president in Brisbane and has defied plenty of Queensland scorn to maintain the Clinton connection.

Not sure if either the Blairs or the Clintons will be able to do much on the Gold Coast employment charts. Although if things stay quiet a Bill Clinton visit would not do the Gold Coast profile any harm internationally.

"Send us some more jobs Sarina, send us some more."



Jobs dynamo Sarina Russo