

MEDIA RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Budget Outcomes Positive for Retailers

“Tax relief for low income earners, greater assistance for tertiary students, support for increasing literacy and numeracy standards, and improvements in child care arrangements are all expected to play a major part in assisting Australia’s future retail industry” said David Edwards, Executive Director of the Australian Retailers Association.

Last night’s Federal Budget announcement has come as a relief to many retailers who are experiencing tough times in finding and recruiting employees. “The initiatives are expected to make it easier for families and a greater incentive for more people to enter the labour market; we should be expecting more fish in the retail pond” said Mr. Edwards.

The Federal Budget met and in some cases exceeded many of the demands of the Australian Retailers Association in its Federal Budget submission. The ARA is particularly pleased with the initiatives aimed at improving basic skills during school age but also initiatives aimed at further tertiary education, which will assist in promoting retail careers.

“The retail industry is often the first point of employment for young people, those who are left behind on basic skills at a young age often miss out “, said Mr. Edwards, “all children should be provided the core skills to ensure their employability in adulthood”.

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The Australian Retailers Association will be working hard in assisting retailers in increasing skills and careers in retail to ensure the increase in quality of Australia's retail industry.

Announcements on regional assistance initiatives, extending the WorkChoices Employers Advisors Program and small business relief initiatives are also supported by the ARA.

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The Australian Retailers' Association (ARA) is the peak employer association representing the interests of the largest employing industry in Australia. We provide leadership and solutions to improve the long-term viability, productivity and visibility of the retail industry by proactively dealing with government, media and other regulatory bodies. We also manage issues that impact members by lobbying Federal, State, Territory and Local governments to ensure members' business concerns are given an effective voice.