

MEDIA RELEASE



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RETAILERS SEEK A FAIR GO FOR WORKCHOICES

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) today warned that an unbalanced WorkChoices enquiry by Victoria's Workplace Advocate would be seen as political and a waste of taxpayers money.

"The Workplace Advocate was established to investigate unfair employment practices, but research into the impact of WorkChoices on retailers and their employees must do more than this if it is to be fair and balanced," said David Edwards, Executive Director ARA Victoria.

"Any enquiry into the impact of WorkChoices in the retail industry must look at the impact on productivity, job security, employment growth and long term real wage growth if it is to be fair and useful to the industry," said Mr. Edwards.

"The Victorian Government has acknowledged that the largest share of AWA's has been in the retail and hospitality sectors," said Mr. Edwards. "There is good reason for this, as the old award system was too inflexible for the employment arrangements needed by the thousands of small businesses in these industries." Thus the enquiry must look at the impact of the WorkChoices legislation as a whole to ensure a more comprehensive investigation.

"The ARA calls on the Government to ensure there are appropriate terms of reference for the enquiry."

Media Enquiries

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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.

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