



*National Retail Association*

# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## Minister Should Intervene After FWA Minimum Hours Decision

Fair Work Australia's dismissal today of an appeal against its ruling on minimum hours for young workers will kill off after school jobs and hurt struggling retailers.

National Retail Association Executive Director Gary Black said the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations should intervene to change the law following the ruling.

Mr Black said the decision proved that the Federal Government's workplace reforms had created unworkable, impractical laws that punished young employees and small businesses.

"This decision will rob young kids of after school jobs and make things even tougher for struggling small retailers such as newsagents and grocers.

"The decision highlights the flaws in the one size fits all modern award process and the inflexibility that results.

**"It was entirely within the power of Fair Work Australia both in the original decision and subsequent appeal to limit its decision to young employees after school.**

**"There should be no need to make a new application, as the FWA has suggested, and there is no guarantee that it would be successful.**

**"Nevertheless, the National Retail Association will lodge a new application this afternoon to fight against the failings in the current law," he said.**

Mr Black said Fair Work Australia's decision is another reminder to employers of the broken promise made by then Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard that employers would not be worse off as a result of the modernisation process.

"There is a double standard wherein the system allows for substantial labour cost increases and inflexible work practices to be inflicted on employers but does not allow for sensible change which would remove a prohibition on the employment of school children after school," he said.

Under the Federal Government's workplace reforms the minimum shift for a young employee in Victoria was increased from two to three hours.

Mr Black said that the decision had underlined the need for ongoing workplace reform during this parliamentary term.

"The National Retail Association has welcomed the Shadow Treasurer's commitment to having a debate about the need for ongoing workplace relations reform.

"Workplace relations reform should never be off the table because it vital to keeping Australia's economy strong," Mr Black said.

The NRA is Australia's largest and most representative retail organisation with more than 3000 members and affiliates located across all states and territories. Its membership includes the

majority of Australia's national retail chains and extends across the retail take-away food and fast food sectors.

**Gary Black is available for interviews. Media contact: Brad Burke – 0458 291 234**