



National Retail Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 July, 2010

NRA fights for youth jobs in appeal against Fair Work decision

The National Retail Association has today lodged an appeal against the Fair Work Australia (FWA) minimum hours decision.

Lodging the notice of appeal, the NRA said there would be a second chance for FWA to apply commonsense to protect the jobs of young and vulnerable employees.

“Fair Work Australia’s decision was a kick in the guts for struggling small retailers and the young employees who rely on them for a few hours work each week,” NRA Executive Director Gary Black said.

“The National Retail Association will fight this decision to achieve a commonsense outcome that protects the interests of young employees and small retailers.

“Fair Work’s decision was the wrong decision and there are extensive grounds on which to appeal it and win.”

Fair Work Australia in a ruling last Friday dismissed an application by the NRA to vary the minimum three-hour shift provisions of the retail award to a minimum of one and a half hours.

“Small retail businesses operate on the tightest of profit margins and unfortunately simply cannot afford to pay for three hours work when only one and a half hours is required.

“Unless Fair Work’s decision is overturned, young and vulnerable employees will be laid off and denied important after school employment.

“One in every two young Australians relies on retail for an income. The sector shoulders the burden of transitioning the nation’s young from school to work, in delivering critical employability skills, and helping develop important life and social skills.”

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.

****Notice of Appeal available at www.nra.net.au****

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