



*National Retail Association*

# MEDIA STATEMENT

**August 18, 2010**

## **Future of after school jobs in Victoria being decided**

The future of after school work opportunities for young Victorians is being argued today in a Fair Work Australia appeal hearing in Melbourne.

National Retail Association Executive Director Gary Black said he was seeking a commonsense outcome on behalf of young Australians and struggling small retailers in the minimum hours case appeal.

“Young Victorians today deserve the after school job opportunities that small retail businesses can provide, just as they have done so in past.

“But the rules changed under the new workplace regime and minimum three hour shifts were imposed.

“Struggling small retail businesses simply cannot afford to pay a young staff member for three hours work after school if only two hours is required.

“This is why the National Retail Association is fighting the decision on behalf of young workers and struggling small retailers,” he said.

Mr Black said the retail sector had welcomed recent comments from the Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Simon Crean that there were strong grounds for an appeal.

“The Minister clearly believes there are strong grounds for the appeal to succeed and we will be pursuing those arguments.

“Given the Minister’s stated position on the appeal, we look forward to both Government support and a commonsense outcome from today’s hearing,” he said.

**Gary Black is available for interviews. Contact Brad Burke on 0458 291 234**