



**The Retailers Association**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Parental Leave is an Important Investment

#### Driscoll – “National Paid Parental Leave Scheme strikes the right balance”

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09 March 2010

**The Retailers Association**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector, says it “fully supports” the proposal to fund a National Paid Parental Leave Scheme (NPPLS) through a levy on big business.

**Scott Driscoll**, National Executive Director of The Retailers Association, said the decision “just makes sense”.

“As a peak industry body representing small business and the retail sector, we strongly support the principle of parental leave. But it was always about how to fund it without creating a cost burden to small businesses who couldn't afford it and tax payers who generally should not have to fund it,” said Mr Driscoll.

“This plan strikes the right balance in that a levy on the company tax paid by larger businesses coupled with the roll-in of the baby bonus to deliver a good investment for any business in Australia.”

Mr Driscoll said that much of the criticism coming from “big business groups” was pathetic and slammed the ACTU for cuddling up with the big end of town to feather their own nest at the expense of working families.

“The criticisms are simply indicative of the closed door alliances between front organisations for the big end of town and elitist groups like Sharan Burrow's ACTU. Middle Australia rarely gets a look in and now that they are, the perennial elitist whingers like Sharan Burrow start to throw their weight around and become critical of excellent policy solutions. The ACTU should be ashamed for their failures to stick up for real working families, not just the ones she pays to be in her TV ads.

“Any employer worth their salt will tell you that a paid parental leave scheme is a great investment because no business wants to lose a good employee, that's always bad for business. What investments like this mean is that in the longer term we see family units that are financially sustainable rather than lining up for the welfare drip-feed,” Mr Driscoll said.

“This also gives a genuine opportunity for fathers to be able to actually afford to stay at home and play a role in the early months of their child's life and beyond. A cultural challenge that has been too long overlooked.”

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on *0413 831 045*