



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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Minimum Work Hours Decision Destroys Job Options for Young People and Fails Working Mums

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The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing retailers across Australia, has condemned the Gillard-AWU backed decision to maintain the rigid and outdated policy of forcing casual employees into working a three-hour shift.

Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, has said that the decision will prevent any consideration of workers and those seeking job opportunities around their family, lifestyle or education commitments to be able to have an income that suits them.

“This decision from Julia Gillard and the ACTU is saying ‘bad luck’ to working mums wanting to supplement their family income or the thousands of young people just wanting to have a practical balance between work, family and education,” Mr Driscoll said.

“These extremely rigid regulations will force cash-strapped and desperate workers who are struggling to pay basic household bills or the home mortgage, to do a three-hour shift or risk having to rule themselves out of the workforce all together based on other family, lifestyle and educational commitments.

“This is a decision written and implemented by the unions outside the realms of reality. Unions which quite frankly are unrepresentative swill with a dwindling membership and struggling so much to remain relevant that they took the extraordinary decision to knife a first term Prime Minister and install their philosophical leader.

“This is a decision being preached from the moralistic pulpit of the Union Altar that Kevin Rudd was sacrificed on and that Ms Gillard’s leadership was consummated upon.

"I have been speaking to many working mums and university students who work in small business or retail and their views range from outraged to fearful that they now will be out of a job.

"Even Kevin Rudd was hesitant to kowtow to the archaic AWU factional warlords' demands but now that they have installed their puppet it's a case of Dracula being let into the blood bank.

"Ms Gillard has ignored working mums and their needs for a work-life balance. However, as a former education minister I would have thought she had more insight into the working environment of an average student.

"This decision will hurt the most vulnerable workers, from pensioners and working mums wanting to work a few hours here or there through to school and university students who have to work within timetables," Mr Driscoll said.

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For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.