



**United Retail Federation**

*Serving Members Australia Wide™*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ***Retail Battlelines Drawn On Paid Parental Leave***

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Retailers have drawn the battlelines on Paid Parental Leave (PPL) with the **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing thousands of retailers across Australia, labelling claims from the *Australian Retailers Association (ARA)* as “wacky” and agreed with other major retailers that Tony Abbott’s PPL proposal would not negatively affect retailers or food prices.

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, said that claims the Abbott PPL policy would negatively affect retailers were baseless other than being a slogan touted by Julia Gillard, given the temporary levy was only on businesses with taxable profits over \$5million per annum and was indeed cancelled out for those businesses by Tony Abbott’s 1.5% company tax cut, leaving a zero sum impact.

A spokesman from the Victorian based *ARA* was recently quoted as saying the proposal would negatively affect retailers. Mr Driscoll labelled the comments as “dopey” saying consumers and the small business sector were the big winners from the proposal. The vast majority of Australian businesses won’t ever have to pay the temporary levy but will directly benefit from the Coalition’s 1.5% company tax cut that would then be able to be passed on to consumers via price cuts.

“For supposed advocates of retailers to state that the Abbott PPL will be a negative shows a basic lack of understanding of how and where these policies will impact the economy at a macro or micro level,” Mr Driscoll said.

Mr Driscoll also said he agreed with comments from other food retailers, such as Coles Managing Director Ian McLeod, that it would not impact prices.

“Every once in a while the planets align with small and big business agreeing on something. On this, I can say I agree with Coles Managing Director, Ian McLeod.

"Business productivity, workplace participation and importantly working Mums are all big winners from the Abbott PPL and frankly it's an un-Australian scrooge who would now argue against this costed and accounted for measure that is exceedingly more generous and realistic than the welfare-like parental payment offered by the Gillard Government which draws funding from general tax revenue," Mr Driscoll said.

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