



United Retail Federation

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Retailers Call for Competition Policy to be on New Parliament's Agenda

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The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing retailers and small businesses for over 120 years, has called on the 43rd Parliament of Australia to bring forth competition policy reforms in order for the country to catch up with other nations like the United Kingdom and Canada.

Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, said that the nature of the new parliament meant that it had the very real potential to be the parliament which "goes into the history books as enacting competition laws that have been 100 years in the making".

"Whilst the 43rd Parliament of Australia will be a balancing act for many MPs it is also an opportunity for the 100 year journey that is competition policy to finally progress into the 21st century," Mr Driscoll said.

"Australia has been left behind on many fronts of competition policy whilst other nations such as the United Kingdom and Canada have moved ahead with serious reforms.

"There are many areas of vital reform for competition policy. Whether it be arresting the increase in anti-competitive mergers, implementing divestiture and anti-trust legislation through to removing restrictive lease arrangements and the reinstatement of former section 49 of the Trade Practices Act which was a prohibition on anti-competitive price discrimination.

"These are the challenges that the 43rd Parliament of Australia has the very real opportunity to tackle and bring the country in line with the rest of the world," Mr Driscoll said.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.