



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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‘All Over the Shop’ as ALP National President Admits Flexibility Key to IR Answers

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The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing retailers across Australia, has supported comments by the National President of the Australian Labor Party, Anna Bligh, that “It is simply not possible to run an organisation...without the flexibility to appoint somebody to acting positions on a reasonably flexible basis”. The comments come only a day after the ACTU President, Ged Kearney, demanded that flexibility arrangements and casual workers be eradicated from the Australian workforce.

Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, has said that on the very same day Ms Kearney called for such measures as requiring casual workers to automatically become permanent workers after six months the ALP President, Ms Bligh, demanded that Industrial Relations legislation be flexible and not outlaw people who wish to work in a casual or even part-time capacity.

“It is certainly a position that is all over the shop and one that has created even more uncertainty for businesses struggling in a very fragile legislative environment,” said Mr Driscoll.

“When Ms Bligh in her capacity as both Premier of a key economic state of Australia and also as President of the Labor Party states that flexibility is essential to running any organisation, I think people do take heed of that.

“And when the head of the ACTU states at the same time that we should be outlawing casual workers then the fragility of the Commonwealth Parliament is under direct attack.

"All the while we have the Prime Minister missing in action on the subject with the only apparent strategy being a gallery of Union backed galahs reciting lines about the former Workchoices legislation.

"This is no way to govern a nation and it is a perilous road for the Government, ALP and ACTU to be taking at such a time," said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.