



Australian National
Retailers Association

MEDIA RELEASE

ANRA is the voice of Australia's leading retailers

3 October 2008

Consistent consumer law long overdue

The Australian National Retailers Association has welcomed the commitment by state, territory and federal ministers to agree to a single national consumer law.

All ANRA members operate across two or more states, so are acutely aware of the regulatory burden of inconsistent state-based consumer laws.

“All Australians deserve the same level of consumer protection, regardless of the state or territory in which they live,” ANRA CEO Margy Osmond said.

“A national consumer law is well overdue.

“Since 1995, Australia has had a single competition law – the Trade Practices Act – applying in all jurisdictions, so it makes perfect sense to have the same consistency for consumer protection.

“There are a number of inconsistencies between the states, which makes complying with varying legislation time consuming and costly.”

Mrs Osmond said the way in which product recall notifications are managed is just one example of where improvements can be made.

“If a product is going to be recalled in one state, it should apply to all states and one regulator, ie. the ACCC, should be responsible for issuing that recall.”

National regulations will lower compliance costs for all businesses, especially businesses operating in more than one State.

“These businesses employ more than one quarter of the workforce and face an array of costly regulations due to inconsistent State and Territory taxes, charges, occupational health and safety regulations and other government requirements.

“ANRA looks forward to the early introduction of the new national consumer legislation and further action from COAG to address other costly areas of duplication and inconsistency in business regulations.”

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Liz Rodway

0417 817970

lrodway@anra.com.au