



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Friday 10 December 2010

[Archive](#)

CLEANERS UNION UNFAIRLY TARGETS SHOPPING CENTRE OWNERS

The LHMU, the union covering cleaners, has begun circulating pamphlets to retailers in shopping centres as part of its 'Clean Start' campaign. The union has also threatened pickets outside shopping centres in the lead-up to Christmas. The union claims that "shopping centre owners have been driving down the prices of cleaning contracts" and that "[cleaning] contractors are forced to cut costs and corners, so we are understaffed, poorly equipped and overworked". This statement is wrong. Indeed, recent award wage increases to cleaners has led to increases in the cost of cleaning contracts. The union's targeting of shopping centre owners is misguided and unfair since this is a dispute between the union and cleaning contractors. It is not a dispute involving shopping centre owners.

The union has, elsewhere, made it clear that the 'Clean Start' campaign is about money, not working conditions. If that is the case any wage claims should be pursued in negotiations with cleaning contractors, in accordance with Fair Work Australia's procedures and processes, and through the new *Cleaning Services Industry Award 2010* (the 'modern award'), which sets wages and working conditions throughout the entire cleaning industry. The Fair Work Ombudsman is also currently conducting a special enforcement campaign in the cleaning industry to ensure that all contractors are observing the terms and conditions of the modern award and the National Employment Standards ([Shop Talk 24/9/10](#)). The SCCA supports this initiative. The SCCA adopted in 2006 the [Principles for Fair Contracting](#) which sets out the standards of corporate responsibility expected of its members and the contractors who provide the services necessary to effectively operate its members' shopping centres. These include a commitment to "treat their employees fairly and ethically".

NEW QUEENSLAND AND NSW DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS TO BE GAZETTED THIS WEEK

The long-awaited new lessors disclosure statements for NSW and Queensland are expected to be available from today. The Queensland Government has advised that it expects the approved form of the disclosure statement to be published in the [Queensland Government Gazette](#) on Friday 10 December. As soon as it is published it is expected to also be available on the Department of Justice website [here](#). The NSW lessors disclosure statement is also expected to be published in the [Government Gazette of the State of NSW](#) today. To obtain a copy of this form as soon as it is available please email: RTU@services.nsw.gov.au The new Victorian lessors disclosure statement was gazetted in September and is available [here](#). The new disclosure statements in these three States, which seek to harmonise retail tenancy disclosure obligations, come into operation on 1 January 2011.

LOUISE ASHER IS MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS IN NEW VICTORIAN MINISTRY

The Premier of Victoria, Ted Ballieu, has announced his [Ministry](#) following the election of a Coalition Government in Victoria on 27 November. Of particular interest is the appointment of Louise Asher as Minister for Small Business, Matthew Guy as Minister for Planning and Kim Wells as Treasurer.

UPDATED NRA GUIDE TO TRADING DAYS OVER THE CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR PERIOD

Trading hours and public holiday arrangements over Christmas-New Year have finally been resolved in each State and Territory. The National Retail Association has published this updated [guide](#) to trading hours arrangements and public holidays around Australia over this period.