



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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UNITING CHURCH BECOMES A UNION PAWN IN THE DISPUTE OVER CLEANING

Unfortunately the Uniting Church has allowed itself to be used by United Voice, the cleaning union, in the union's current dispute with cleaning contractors over shopping centre cleaning ([Shop Talk 25/11/11](#)). The church's 'social justice officer' has supported United Voice's allegations of unfair contracts, poor pay and hygiene. In doing so the church's employee has made no effort to consider the position of the contractors, who provide vital jobs for the union's members. Those contractors being singled out by the union already pay their staff the wages and conditions determined by the independent Fair Work Australia in the *Cleaning Services Award 2010* (the 'modern award'). Fair Work Australia, after hearing submissions from all parties in the Annual Wage Review, also determines the annual wage increase which flows to all awards. The award rate for cleaners is actually more than the rate for shop assistants. Eighty percent of cleaners in the retail sector earn more than the award rate and the various penalty rates and allowances lift them well above many shop assistants. The *Cleaning Services Award* is due for review next year. That's the appropriate time for the Uniting Church to intervene if it believes there is a social justice issue. If it genuinely believes cleaners are underpaid and work too hard, this is a matter for the entire cleaning industry, not just one sector – and one which has already taken rigorous action to ensure its contractors' employees are treated fairly and decently through the adoption of the [Code of Conduct for Fair Service Provision in Shopping Centres](#) ([Shop Talk 14/2/12](#)). The Uniting Church should not be selective in the application of its views on social justice.

PCA QUEENSLAND RETAIL BREAKFAST 'NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK' ON 31 MAY

Brisbane is attracting an increasing number of international retail brands. This trend is discussed at a Property Council Retail Breakfast in Brisbane on Thursday 31 May. Click [here](#) to register.

UNITED KINGDOM SUSPENDS SUNDAY TRADING LAWS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The UK Parliament has [suspended](#) – for eight Sundays (from 22 July until 9 September) during the Olympic and Paralympic Games – laws which limit Sunday trading for large shops. Since 1994 large shops (i.e. shops over 280 square metres), in England and Wales, can trade for only six continual hours between 10am and 6pm on Sundays. Trading is unrestricted at other times.

WESTFIELD LONDON WINS ICSC'S VIVA BEST-OF-THE-BEST AWARD

Congratulations to Westfield London, which won the 'Design and Development' Award at the International Council of Shopping Center's 'Best-of-the-Best Awards', [announced](#) at RECon in Las Vegas this week. Congratulations also to Colonial First State Global Asset Management which won an 'Honoree Award' in the same category for the Chadstone West redevelopment and also an 'Honoree Award' for Marketing, also for Chadstone.

MIRRABOOKA SQUARE IS THE 2012 WA SHOPPING CENTRE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mirrabooka Square (owned by the Perron Group; managed by Jones Lang LaSalle) which was named 2012 Shopping Centre of the Year at the Property Council, Western Australia's WA 2012 Shopping Centre Awards last Friday. Mirrabooka Square also won five other awards. A full list of winners is available [here](#). The Shopping Centre Council was a sponsor of these awards.

JORDANN OLIPHANT IS YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR AT RTA WA AWARDS

Jordann Oliphant, of Woolworths, was named Young Retailer of the Year at the Retail Traders Association of Western Australia Awards last Saturday. Winners of the various Customer Service Excellence Awards are listed [here](#). The Shopping Centre Council was a sponsor of these awards.