

29 October 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA WELCOMES NEW WORKPLACE PROTECTION AND REPEAT OFFENDER LAWS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) today welcomed the South Australian Government's introduction of legislation to create *Workplace Protection Orders*, and target serious repeat young offenders, marking another positive step in addressing the growing issue of retail crime.

The move demonstrates the Malinauskas Government's ongoing commitment to improving safety for workers and customers in retail settings across the state.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "We commend Premier Malinauskas and Attorney General Kyam Maher for their leadership and continuing to take proactive and practical measures to tackle crime in retail settings.

"The effective enforcement of Workplace Protection Orders (WPOs) will provide a useful mechanism to better protect retail workers from repeat aggressive and violent customers."

The new legislation builds on a series of initiatives implemented by the South Australian Government to curb retail-related offences, including tighter controls on the sale of knives and expanded police powers to conduct wandering operations in shopping centres and other public places.

"These reforms send a strong message that violence, threats and intimidation in retail settings will not be tolerated.

"We look forward to continuing our engagement with the South Australian Government and our industry partners, including on practical implementation and enforcement issues subject to the legislation being passed," Mr Nardi said.

The SCCA continues to work closely with industry partners such as the National Retail Association (NRA), the Australian Retail Association (ARA) and the (Australian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) to identify practical solutions to retail crime, improve incident reporting, and support frontline staff.

The SCCA also maintains an ongoing national partnership with *Crime Stoppers Australia* to raise community awareness and encourage the public to report suspicious or criminal behaviour within retail precincts.

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia is the leading voice for shopping centre owners across Australia.

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