

Media Release
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Newsagents Call for Voice in NSW Lotteries Sale

Australian Newsagents have called for 'a seat at the table' in the negotiations of the sale of NSW Lotteries to protect the successful relationship they have with the brand.

Australian Newsagents Federation (ANF) CEO Anthony Matis said newsagents in New South Wales play a major role in the success of NSW Lotteries and should have a say in who the NSW Government passes it to.

"Treasurer Eric Roosendaal has announced there will be a government appointed working group to review all aspects of the decision and newsagents have asked to be a part of this review process," Mr Matis said.

"Newsagents have helped make NSW Lotteries what it is today and we'll be seeking a commitment from any new owner that the distribution system stays in tact.

We are not only concerned about how a new owner would run NSW lotteries but also about rumours the products will be available to purchase on line."

Newsagents in New South Wales have been the primary agents for NSW Lotteries since the very first lottery went on sale in August 1931. Since that time NSW Lotteries has paid around \$14 billion in prizes to hundreds of thousands of winners and has been able to raise over \$7 billion for State Government infrastructure.

The annual financial contribution to the Government's revenue is now in the vicinity of \$400 million. The continued success of NSW Lotteries in part depends on the integrity of the relationship with newsagents.

Newsagents in other states have had mixed experiences with private owners of lottery systems. The mistakes made during the recent poor implementation of Intralot in Victoria caused hardships for many newsagents.

Mr Matis said ANF wants to ensure its members in New South Wales don't suffer because of a bad decision in how the upcoming transition is handled.

"It's in the interest of newsagents that costs don't rise under private ownership. We want assurances that licence fees, equipment, signage, fittings and other necessities associated with delivering NSW Lotteries remain as they are," Mr Matis said.

"We want the State Government to recognise that local newsagents are the last bastion of community based retailing. They are small businesses run by decent hard working families.

"Private ownership of an entity as big as NSW Lotteries needs to be properly regulated through contractual guidelines to protect these businesses.

"Newsagents are already dealing with a lot of change on many fronts. A newsagency business is very diverse in the 21st century and no longer enjoys assured income from distribution. Income made on some parts of the business is often used to support other parts of the business.

"Cash flow is paramount to the newsagent's business and as an industry we are standing together to protect it. We have been a big part of NSW Lotteries success and we don't want any change under private ownership to threaten this part of our business."

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