

Media Release  
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## ANF to be Granted Collective Bargaining Authorisation

The Australian Newsagents' Federation (ANF) has gained a significant bargaining right for its members giving it immunity from competition laws.

In a first ever initiative, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is proposing to give ANF the right to engage in collective bargaining in relation to magazines on behalf of its members Australia wide.

ANF CEO Anthony Matis welcomed the move and said ANF members are now in a wonderful position to meaningfully address their long standing issues.

"We will continue to have the right to bargain with certain publishers and distributors of newspapers and magazines from a position of strength without breaking any competition laws for up to five years," Mr Matis said.

"This is a great step forward for our members and a very good reason for newsagents around Australia to become members of ANF."

Making the announcement, ACCC Chairman Mr Graeme Samuel said he believed there would be a public benefit in providing the ANF with the bargaining opportunity on a national basis.

"Collective bargaining is likely to deliver public benefits by providing newsagents with more effective input into contractual terms and conditions," Mr Samuel said.

The ACCC had previously allowed collective bargaining arrangements for newsagents on the condition that bargaining groups remained at a state level. However the ANF had requested authorisation from the ACCC to form national collective bargaining groups.

"This is the first time the ACCC has granted an organisation the right to carry out collective bargaining on a national basis. I'm very pleased we have been able to demonstrate to the ACCC the value this process will bring to the public and our members," Mr Matis said.

Newsagents will not be bound to be a part of the collective bargaining process but the option is there for members of the ANF if they wish to 'opt in'. It is also voluntary for publishers and distributors of magazines and newspapers.

Mr Matis said the ACCC has also proposed a number of conditions on the authorisation setting very clear limits on the scope of the negotiations.

"There is still some clarity to be achieved in this and we will be contacting major distributors and publishers in order to formulate determinations but I'm confident the shared desire for a solid national outcome will lead to a successful final determination.

"This is a draft determination at this stage and the ACCC is calling on all interested parties to put further submissions on this issue by the 5th June before a final decision is made.

"We will offer to work with the ACCC to address any issues arising from any of those submissions in the coming weeks.

"Obviously the process is not complete but we are extremely pleased the ACCC has made this draft determination after being satisfied at this stage that the public benefit from the conduct outweighs any public detriment."

**For Further information contact Anthony Matis at ANF on 0407 278 142**