

Media Release
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ACCC Grants Valuable Rights to Newsagent Group

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) has granted ANF the right to form national collective bargaining groups in relation to the supply of 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 without breaking any competition laws for up to five years," Mr Matis said.

"This is a great step forward for our members and offers newsagents hope for a brighter future."

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.

Mr Matis said this is the first time the ACCC has granted an organisation the right to form national bargaining groups to bargain collectively.

"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," he 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.

"We are extremely pleased the ACCC has made this determination after being satisfied at this stage that the public benefit from the conduct outweighs any public detriment.

"Although we are aware that where newspaper publishers are concerned, we will be able to form bargaining groups no larger than state level."

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