



**Australian
Newsagents'**
FEDERATION LTD

22 December 2009

Mr John Hawkins
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

By email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Hawkins,

**Trade Practices Amendment (Material Lessening of Competition – Richmond Amendment)
Bill 2009**

The Australian Newsagents' Federation (ANF) welcomes this opportunity to provide our views and the views of our members on the Trade Practices Amendment (Material Lessening of Competition – Richmond Amendment) Bill 2009.

The ANF is the national peak industry body representing newsagents in Australia. The ANF's membership comprises some 1500 newsagents Australia wide. Nearly all ANF members are small or micro businesses employing less than 20 staff, the majority of whom would employ five or less staff.

The newsagency industry is facing a range of long term technological and systemic challenges affecting the nature of print media, distribution and retail. In response to these challenges larger publishing organisations are leading an industry transformation, involving among other measures, a process of consolidation and vertical integration within and between the various functional levels of the market for magazine and newspaper publishing and distribution.

This process is seeing large multi-million dollar publishing businesses acquire control of an increasing number of suburban territorial distribution newsagents. The Federation is concerned with the acquisition of these and other newsagency businesses elsewhere in Australia.

The Federation welcomes and supports the proposed measures aimed at addressing the issue of creeping acquisitions.

Yours sincerely

Michael Pruscino
Policy and Regulatory Compliance Manager
Australian Newsagents Federation

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