23rd April 2010

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Bill (No.2) 2010

The Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Bill (No.2) 2010. WACOSS would like to provide its support for the attached submission prepared by the Consumer Action Law Centre (CALC).

WACOSS is the peak body of the community services sector across Western Australia. Since 1956, WACOSS has been developing and strengthening the non-government community services sector's capacity to assist all Western Australians.

With over 350 members, WACOSS has strong relationships with the community services sector and seeks to represent their interests, and those of the disadvantaged individuals and families they assist at a service level. Given this relationship, WACOSS is in a unique position to comment on issues in our society that socially impact upon disadvantaged members of the community.

The Australian Consumer Law reform constitutes significant changes to Australian consumer protection laws. WACOSS supports the development of a single national consumer law in that it will support the move towards national consistency and best practice in consumer protection.

WACOSS supports the comments and recommendations made by CALC in their submission. CALC has identified areas of the Bill that may result in a diminishing of consumer protections in some jurisdictions and calls for these areas of the Bill to be strengthened.

WACOSS would like to thank the Senate Economics Committee for consideration of CALC's submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Sue Ash
WACOSS CEO