



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

---

---

31 May 2009

### **Government will consult on franchise reforms**

The Government will hold targeted consultations to seek final input into options for responding to a parliamentary committee report on franchising.

The options paper will be released in the next few weeks.

Depending upon the results of the final consultation process, it is anticipated that the formal response to the report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporation and Financial Services inquiry into franchising will be released in late July.

The Joint Committee tabled its report, *Opportunity not opportunism; improving conduct in Australian franchising*, in Parliament late last year.

In the reform process, we can do better than a them-and-us approach.

Genuine misunderstandings occur from time to time, sometimes relationships between franchisors and franchisees break down and sometimes people on both sides do the wrong thing.

Yet most franchise arrangements work well and these good working relationships must not be jeopardised by the reforms.

With more than 70,000 franchising agreements currently in place in Australia, it is therefore important that any changes to the Franchising Code of Conduct improve the franchising model to the benefit of franchisees, prospective franchisees and franchisors.

If the reforms are to be worthwhile and enduring it is worth taking the time to get them right.

The Government's response will also take account of franchising inquiries held in Western Australia and South Australia.

**Media Contact: Lynne Ashpole 0401 119 780**