



# AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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## ***Media Release***

### ***South Australian Retail Sector Agreement***

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The new template agreement for the South Australian retail sector is acknowledgement that the current system of severe penalties is not conducive to increasing business activity, employment growth and consumer convenience in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The current 'one size fits all' nature of the Federal Industrial System limits local business, workers and consumers for finding arrangements that suit them.

It is commendable that the relevant employer and employee groups have found middle ground trying to avoid that a penalty rate structure that has its origins in the 1940s.

However, its success or otherwise will be measured by the take up by small and medium business.

The decrease in weekend penalty rates has to be offset by an 8% increase overall plus a guaranteed 3% per annum adjustment for three years.

That may suit some employers but not all, but at least they have a choice.

Again, this agreement is really an acknowledgement that the current system is broken and incapable of responding to a modern, flexible work place and work force.

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