

News Release

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Gawler leads the way in franchise law reform

Gawler continues to be at the forefront of reform of franchising laws in Australia.

Prior to Christmas, local MP Mr Tony Piccolo held bi-partisan talks with members of the Western Australian Parliament to discuss how States could introduce their own laws should the Federal Government fail to act and adopt key recommendations of the Federal and South Australian Parliamentary Inquiries.

In December Mr Piccolo introduced a private members Bill into the South Australian Parliament that seeks to create a fairer playing field for both franchisees and franchisors in South Australia.

The Bill has been welcomed by franchisees but strongly opposed by the Franchise Council of Australia (FCA), a body which represents franchisors across Australia.

Mr Piccolo said the FCA believes no reform is required and are vehemently opposed to State based laws.

“The FCA’s opposition is unfortunate but no entirely unpredictable considering they mainly represent the top end of town” said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said his Bill could be used as a model for other States to follow as we need to keep them as uniform as possible.

“A uniform set of State based laws are better than no reform at all” said Mr Piccolo.

Chair of the Federal Inquiry into Franchising in Australia Mr Bernie Ripoll visited Gawler recently to discuss the progress of the SA franchise law reform process.

Mr Ripoll met with Mr Piccolo and Gawler Cheesecake Shop franchisee Mr Brad Skuse who has had a lengthy and protracted dispute with his franchisor.

Mr Ripoll told Mr Skuse that he was confident that reform of the Franchise Code of Conduct would continue.

A dispute between another former Gawler franchisee and their franchisor was raised in State Parliament in 2007, which led to the State Parliamentary Inquiry and the push for reform.

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