

Workplace Relations Committee Charter

Purpose and goals

The Workplace Relations Committee is convened to support the Australian Retailers Association's advocacy strategy, priorities, and functions in relation to:

- Reviewing the current employment relations framework and proposed changes to that framework
- Minimum wages, award terms and conditions, and other Fair Work Commission matters including major cases impacting on the retail industry
- Associated employment legislation (including on sexual harassment, diversity, etc.)
- Educating retailers about, and responding to, emerging trends and issues
- Responding to Inquiries, Consultations and Discussion Papers issued by Governments and relevant Regulators
- Determining the Australian Retailers Association's responses to, and participation in, the above matters
- Facilitating a forum for exchange of ideas and information, discussion and consultation on relevant Workplace Relations matters for the retail industry; and
- Such matters which may be relevant to the above.

The Workplace Relations Committee may also address common and overlapping matters, concurrently or in cooperation with other Australian Retailers Association policy committees.

Membership:

The Workplace Relations Committee is comprised of retail industry corporate executives, people and culture, employee relations, industrial relations, human resources and corporate affairs executives from Australian Retailers Association member companies and representatives from partner associations.

Roles and responsibilities

Committee members are expected to show leadership in developing recommendations for policy and guidance in the field of retail workplace health and safety on behalf of the retail industry. Specifically, the Committee should develop policy which ensures both government, industry, and key stakeholders have a sound understanding of retail workplace safety best practice. In addition, the Committee aims to educate members and co-operatively develop inputs to best practice. To facilitate this aim, the roles and responsibilities of the committee are as follows:

Membership

- 15 or more committee members
- Committee members are expected to attend 60% of yearly meetings
- Active participation in thought leadership
- Actively recruit appropriate new members to the committee as required

Committee Chairperson

Prior to a committee meeting, the chairperson will:

- Consult with the Secretariat on all matters to be discussed at meetings
- Supervise and prepare, together with the Secretariat, the agenda for the meeting
- Review the minutes and ensure they are sent out to members with sufficient notice before a subsequent committee meeting
- Be acquainted with reports, correspondence and business which is to be presented at the meeting

During meetings, the chairperson will:

- Open the meeting
- Conduct the business of the meeting in accordance with the order of the agenda
- Allow free and, if necessary, formal debate which allows all committee members the opportunity to speak
- Close the meeting when all matters are attended to

Secretariat

- Ensure requirements for meeting location are met and times and locations are circulated
- Ensure a quorum of seven is present for each meeting and manage apologies
- Draft and check the minutes for the chairperson's approval
- Compile minutes for meetings and circulate to all committee members three weeks in advance of next meeting
- Settle the agenda items with the chairperson and provide all committee members draft agenda
- Manage the papers and committee matters in an orderly way for reference and policy development
- Provide information as required or requested to the committee

Minutes and relevant attachments will be distributed to Committee members after each meeting

Length and scope of membership

Membership will be maintained for a twelve-month duration, however, in volunteering time to the committee, there is no specific term of assignment. Annual review of the committee profile is required to allow an orderly process for members to either transition or remain in situ.

Chairperson succession is informal with the nomination of a new chair as the key representative of the committee to be determined by the committee members. The chairperson can hold the position for successive years on the vote of committee members. The Committee Chairperson will generally contact new members to inform them of the Committee's work and welcome them as new member.

Accountability

Accountability of all committee members extends to the following points:

- Consideration for the needs and best interests of the committee as a whole
- Contribution to collective discussion in a professional and inclusive way
- Maintaining confidentiality outside of the committee meeting to ensure respect for industry intelligence
- Inclusive and collegial behavior to ensure the culture of the committee encourages contribution
- Ensuring timely attendance and remaining respectful of professional protocol
- Reading and reviewing minutes and preparing notes in advance of committee meetings
- Directing all grievances or concerns in a professional way to the committee chairperson

Meeting schedules

Workplace Relations Committee meetings will be held five times per year with the following proposed dates for 2020:

18 March, 28 May, 29 July, 30 September and 14 October

Additional meetings may be scheduled where necessary according to industry requirements.

The Chatham House Rule applies to all Committee meetings and reads as follows: When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.