



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

29 March 2018

Dear Submitter

Inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the Franchising Code of Conduct

On 22 March 2018, the Senate referred an inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the Franchising Code of Conduct to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services for report by 30 September 2018.

The committee is inviting submissions by **4 May 2018**. Late submissions received after this date may not be accepted.

The **terms of reference** for the inquiry and details on how to make an online submission are available at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations_and_Financial_Services/Franchising/Terms_of_Reference. It is recommended that you make your submission by uploading it via the committee's website.

The committee welcomes individual stories that may identify widespread issues and recommendations for reform. The committee's powers allow it to report to Parliament with recommendations for changes to legislation, regulation and government policy. Please note that the committee is not able to investigate or resolve individual disputes.

If you do wish to inform the committee about a franchising dispute, please identify in your submission whether your dispute has been or may be considered by:

- any of the following bodies or a mediation adviser appointed or referred by:
 - the Office of the Franchising Mediation Adviser; or
 - the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman; or
 - a local, state or territory Small Business Commissioner; or
- the Dispute Resolution Adviser if the matter relates to the Oil Code of Conduct;
- the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission; or
- a court; or
- any other dispute resolution body.

The most useful submissions:

- clearly address some or all of the terms of reference—you do not need to address each one;
- are relevant and highlight your own perspective;
- are concise, generally no longer than four to five pages;

- begin with a short introduction about yourself or the organisation you represent;
- emphasise the key points so that they are clear;
- outline not only what the issues are but how problems can be addressed, as the committee looks to submissions for ideas to make recommendations;
- make your arguments without naming people;
- only include documents that directly relate to your key points and do not attach personal or business documents or correspondence, and
- only include information you would be happy to see published on the internet.

When uploading your submission, please clarify whether you are requesting that your submission be:

- published with your name on the internet as a **public** submission (the secretariat will remove any contact details prior to publication); *or*
- kept confidential by the committee (that is, not made public). Please note that the committee does not refer to confidential submissions in its reports.

Please note that submissions that contain personal details or criticise a named individual (as opposed to an organisation) may take the committee longer to process and consider. The committee may reject such evidence or offer a right of reply.

Once the committee has considered your submission, the secretariat will inform you of the committee's decision regarding publication.

If you have questions about the inquiry the secretariat can be contacted on (02) 6277 3583 or by e-mail to corporations.joint@aph.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Patrick Hodder
Acting Committee Secretary

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