



MEDIA RELEASE

FRAN BAILEY

Minister for Small Business and Tourism

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NEW PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY OMBUDSMAN APPOINTED

The Minister for Small Business and Tourism, Fran Bailey, today announced the appointment of the Accord Group to provide mediation services to the produce and grocery industry.

Fran Bailey said: "the Accord Group will provide open and transparent mediation for the industry. For the first time, the Ombudsman will be supported by a panel of skilled and qualified mediators around Australia."

The Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman is a key element of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code, offering subsidised dispute resolution to the produce and grocery industry.

The appointment of the Accord Group is the culmination of a tender process undertaken by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. The Department is responsible for managing the contract.

Fran Bailey concluded: "As a further example of the Australian Government's commitment to encouraging continued growth in the produce and grocery sector, I am pleased to announce that we are launching a new and re-invigorated awareness-raising campaign in support of the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman and the Code, commencing at the Henty Farm Machinery Field Days from 19 to 21 September 2006."

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