

PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

News Release

New Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman to deliver mediation services

The Chair of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee Mr Ian Davis today welcomed the appointment of the Accord Group to provide mediation services. The Accord Group will deliver a fully funded dispute resolution service to the industry using a panel of skilled and qualified mediators around Australia. The delivery of mediation services by a panel of Ombudsman's representatives is an important initiative which will further enhance the service provided under the Code.

The appointment follows an open tender process undertaken by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

The Accord Group replaces Mediate Today Pty Ltd. Mr Davis said "I welcome the appointment of the Accord Group. I would also like to thank Mediate Today Pty Ltd, and their staff, particularly Mr Bob Gausson and Mr David Holst for the mediation services they have provided to the Produce and Grocery Industry since 2001. I acknowledge the considerable personal contribution they have made through their facilitating many mediations as the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman.

Mr Davis said "the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman service is a key element of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code, offering confidential, fully funded dispute resolution services to the industry. The mediation service will assist those people who have been unable to resolve vertical supply disputes through other means such as internal dispute resolution services".

During the last 12 months the Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee has been further strengthened through the appointment of three additional grower representatives. The Committee is also currently working on strengthening and improving the provisions of the Code and providing advice on education and promotion of the Code.

For further information, contact Ian Davis, Chairman, on (03) 8608 2897.
5 September 2006

For more information on the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct see www.pgio.com.au
Background

The Committee was established in 2000 by the Australian Government to administer the Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Retail Grocery Industry. The Code covers all industry participants in the produce and grocery industry in their vertical supply chain.

Code signatories include: Aldi Stores; Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries Limited; Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Chicken Growers Council, Australian Egg Corporation Ltd; Australian Food and Grocery Council; Australian Retailers Association; Coles Myer Limited; Murray Valley Winegrape Growers; National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia; National Farmers Federation; National Retailers Association; Horticulture Australia Council; Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association; and Woolworths Limited.