

From: Chambers - Lee C <Chambers.Lee.c@fwc.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 10:18 AM

To: 'Joe.Sullivan@spotless.com.au' <Joe.Sullivan@spotless.com.au>; 'Ben.Redford@unitedworkers.org.au' <Ben.Redford@unitedworkers.org.au>; 'stephen.crawford@nat.awu.net.au' <stephen.crawford@nat.awu.net.au>; 'Jai.Shepherdson@Downergroup.com' <Jai.Shepherdson@Downergroup.com>

Cc: AMOD <AMOD@fwc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request to facilitate discussions on proposed variation to the Dry Cleaning and Laundry Industry Award

Dear Parties,

I write in relation to the above matter and refer to the **Conference** listed before Commissioner Lee at **9:30am on 8 April 2020**.

The Commissioner asks that parties please provide any materials that may be relevant by **close of business today, 7 April 2020**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Kind regards,

Sarah Martiniello

Associate to Commissioner Lee

Fair Work Commission

Tel: 03 8656 4534

Fax: 03 9655 0401

chambers.lee.c@fwc.gov.au

From: Chambers - Lee C

Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 10:02 AM

To: 'Joe.Sullivan@spotless.com.au' <Joe.Sullivan@spotless.com.au>; 'Ben.Redford@unitedworkers.org.au' <Ben.Redford@unitedworkers.org.au>; 'stephen.crawford@nat.awu.net.au' <stephen.crawford@nat.awu.net.au>; 'Jai.Shepherdson@Downergroup.com' <Jai.Shepherdson@Downergroup.com>

Cc: Chambers - Ross J <Chambers.Ross.j@fwc.gov.au>; Chambers - Lee C <Chambers.Lee.c@fwc.gov.au>; AMOD <AMOD@fwc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request to facilitate discussions on proposed variation to the Dry Cleaning and Laundry Industry Award

Dear Mr Sullivan,

I write in relation to the above matter and refer to your correspondence of today's date.

In light of the below request, Commissioner Lee will conduct a **Conference, by telephone at 9:30am on Wednesday, 8 April 2020**.

A Notice of Listing will be issued shortly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Kind regards,

Sarah Martiniello

Associate to Commissioner Lee

Fair Work Commission

Tel: 03 8656 4534

Fax: 03 9655 0401

chambers.lee.c@fwc.gov.au

From: Sullivan, Joe <Joe.Sullivan@spotless.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 8:29 AM

To: Chambers - Ross J <Chambers.Ross.j@fwc.gov.au>

Cc: Ben.Redford@unitedworkers.org.au; stephen.crawford@nat.awu.net.au; Jai Shepherdson <Jai.Shepherdson@Downergroup.com>

Subject: Request to facilitate discussions on proposed variation to the Dry Cleaning and Laundry Industry Award

Dear President Ross,

I am the Chairman of the Laundry Association Australia Ltd (**LAA**). The LAA is an industry body that represents businesses in the rental of textiles and/or commercial laundering and re-distribution of textile products, supplies including laundry equipment manufacturers, distributors, consumable and chemical suppliers. The majority of employees engaged by LAA members are covered by the *Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services Award 2010 (Award)*.

LAA members have seen a dramatic reduction in demand from customers in the restaurant and general good service industry, hotels and accommodation services and private hospital sector, as a direct result of measures implemented by the Commonwealth and respective State and Territory Governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those measures include:

- the requirement to observe social distancing rules in workplaces;
- restrictions on opening for facilities including restaurants, cafes, bars, pubs and clubs;
- interstate and international travel restrictions which resulted in a sharp reduction in demand for accommodation services; and
- cancellation of elective surgeries.

On 2 April 2020, the LAA surveyed its membership in relation to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on business viability. It received responses from 31 members. The responses received from LAA members indicated that, on average:

- members have experienced a 63% reduction in business; and
- members have stood down or reduced the hours of approximately 1,946 employees.

The LAA has had preliminary discussions with the Australian Workers' Union (**AWU**) and the United Workers' Union (**UWU**), the unions that represent the industrial interests of workers in the laundry industry, regarding the challenges facing the industry and the LAA's desire to reach a consent position with the unions to temporarily vary the Award to provide employers with the necessary flexibility in relation to operations, working hours and annual leave that will assist businesses to retain employees throughout this period of significant uncertainty.

The LAA estimates, based on the survey of its membership, that if the Award was not temporarily varied in the manner outlined above, employers in the industry would need to downscale their workforce by approximately 57%. However, if the Award was temporarily varied, approximately 93% of members would be in a position to retain employees.

In light of the continuing deterioration of business activity in the laundry industry and the urgency of the concerns held by the LAA membership, the LAA seeks the Fair Work Commission's assistance to facilitate further discussions with the union parties (prior to the filing of a formal application with the Commission). In that regard, the LAA understands that the AWU has availability to meet between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 9 April 2020. This time is also suitable to the LAA. I do not have the availability of the UWU.

I have copied this email to Mr Stephen Crawford, AWU and Mr Ben Redford, UWU who have carriage of this matter on behalf of their respective unions. I have also copied Mr Jai Shepherdson, who has facilitated preliminary discussions with the union parties on behalf of the LAA.

The LAA is grateful for any assistance that the Commission can provide in further discussions towards a consent position to vary the Award and would be pleased to provide any further information that the Commission requires to determine this request.

Regards

Joe Sullivan
Chairman

Laundry Association Australia Ltd

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