

Extended shopping hours would boost jobs, economy

DANIEL WILLS
STATE POLITICAL EDITOR

REMOVING the shackles from SA's "antiquated" shop trading hours would create a "multiplier effect" for the economy, delivering new jobs and giving workers more spending money, major retailers say.

The Australian Retailers' Association, which represents some of the nation's biggest employers, says SA should immediately move to allow more trading in a bid to tackle high unemployment.

Opposition Leader Steven Marshall on Saturday revealed

plans to allow more public holiday and weekend trading if the Liberals win the next state election in 18 months.

Woolworths said yesterday it would also need to create more positions to cover extended shifts under shop trading hours deregulation, as it took advantage of the changed laws.

ARA executive director Russell Zimmerman said SA and WA had the most outdated shopping hours in the nation and they were seen by other states as being well behind the times.

"If they open their shops (in SA), there will be more people

employed," he told *The Advertiser*.

"There will be a multiplier effect. All of a sudden, you employ more people and they have more money in their pockets and will again spend more of that money in the retail industry."

Mr Zimmerman called on the Federal Government to reduce penalty rates for workers on Sunday to ensure that businesses were able to take advantage of extended trading.

He said Sunday rates were double those on weekdays, and should be reduced to a 50 per cent loading.

A Woolworths spokesman said: "We would welcome more flexible trading hours in SA so that our customers can benefit from greater choice and convenience."

"We also believe having our Woolworths supermarkets and Big W stores opening longer on Sundays and on public holidays would boost the local economy through our employment of additional team members," he said.

Lord Mayor Martin Haese yesterday joined Foodland operators and the Small Business Council in opposing major change, saying preferential

treatment for the CBD helped boost its business.

Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association SA secretary Sonia Romeo said it was "outrageous" that the Liberals had not consulted her union about trading changes.

"Shops are only closed in suburban Adelaide for 11 days out of the year and retail workers deserve the right to take a day off on a public holiday every now and then," Ms Romeo said.

"The Liberal Party may no longer value public holidays or weekends, but the majority of South Australians do."

Teachers banned over sex charges

LAUREN NOVAK
POLITICAL REPORTER

FOUR male teachers were banned from classrooms last financial year after being jailed for child sex or pornography offences.

The latest Teachers Registration Board annual report details their cases and those of female teachers suspended for incompetence and harbouring an escaped prisoner.

Teachers are currently subjected to background checks by the Teachers Registration Board but will soon be covered by a central government unit which will screen all people wanting to work or volunteer with children.

The Government has introduced legislation to Parliament to shift to the new screening system.

The board's report reveals four male teachers were individually:

CONVICED and sentenced to jail for one count of persistent sexual exploitation of a child.

CONVICED and sentenced to jail for possession of child pornography.

GIVEN a suspended sentence on three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

GIVEN a suspended sentence for accessing and possessing child pornography.

All had their registration cancelled immediately and were permanently disqualified from being registered as teachers.

SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said parents would be disturbed by the revelations.

"It really does strike in the heart of every parent's fear that where you leave your children in trust there are these predators," he said.

"We would expect that those parents (at the schools involved) would be notified."

The report also reveals a female teacher was disqualified from teaching for a year and handed a three-month suspended jail sentence after she pleaded guilty, in Darwin, to harbouring an escaped prisoner.

SPEAKER SMOOTHS AWAY 'BOTOX BOY' BANISHING

DANIEL WILLS

A LIBERAL frontbencher banished from Parliament over his angry display to his leader being branded "Botox boy" has had his three-day ban overturned.

Speaker Michael Atkinson yesterday revoked a decision to expel Opposition transport spokesman David Pisoni for his personal attack on Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis during a heated exchange last week.

Mr Atkinson's change of heart came after he was alerted to comments that had earlier been made by Mr Koutsantonis about Liberal Leader Steven Marshall.

Hansard records that Mr Koutsantonis on Thursday, during an aggressive back and forth interchange, goaded Mr Marshall about his office's record for paying its bills on time.

Answering a question on the state's power crisis, Mr Koutsantonis on Thursday said Mr Marshall has been slow in sending invoices to the

Government's Shared Services Department for payment.

"Who sends the bill, Botox boy? You do?" Mr Koutsantonis said.

Mr Koutsantonis has long teased Mr Marshall with claims the Opposition Leader has had Botox treatment. Mr Marshall has dismissed the claim as a made-up smear.

That immediately drew a rebuke from Mr Pisoni on Mr Koutsantonis's driving record.

Mr Koutsantonis was forced to give up the road safety ministry in 2009 after the *Sunday Mail* revealed he had been hit with more than 30 speeding fines and failed to pay some on time.

"How many speeding fines didn't you pay, Tom?" Mr Pisoni said on Thursday.

Mr Atkinson then ordered Mr Pisoni leave the chamber, triggering a three-day ban.

Yesterday morning, Mr Atkinson said: "Three days' suspension from the House is disproportionate in the circumstances."



GOADED: Opposition Leader Steven Marshall, who was labelled 'Botox Boy' by Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis in State Parliament.

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