



Gladys Berejiklian
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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TREASURER THANKS RETAILERS AND STAFF FOR A SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL BOXING DAY TRADE

NSW Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations Gladys Berejiklian has thanked retailers and their staff after a successful Boxing Day when all shops across the State were able to trade for the first time.

The NSW Government dedicated extra resources in the lead-up to Boxing Day to ensure businesses were aware of their responsibilities under the new rules. Nine complaints were received in the lead-up to Boxing Day and no complaints have been received since.

“Most of the complaints have been about staff feeling as though they would be compelled to work if they were rostered on,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“NSW Industrial Relations investigators followed up with head offices in all of those cases, reiterated to the businesses that the law required staff to freely elect to work and warned they faced heavy fines if they breached the law.”

The situation was rectified in all cases where complaints were received and all staff were given the opportunity to freely elect to work. Staff who did not wish to work were removed from rosters.

The NSW Government in November removed outdated retail trading restrictions that prevented shops in Western Sydney and many parts of regional NSW from trading on Boxing Day.

The change meant that for the first time, from 2015 all shops across NSW were able to take part in Boxing Day sales subject to staff freely electing to work.

“It was great to see shops in Western Sydney and many parts of regional NSW buzzing with activity this Boxing Day,” Ms Berejiklian said. “This was an important boost to local businesses and jobs right across the State.”

Retailers that coerce staff to work on Boxing Day face fines of up to \$11,000 and landlords that compel shopkeepers to trade on the day could face fines of up to \$22,000.

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