

26 March 2019
ASX/ media release

Noni B Group responds to SDA claims

Noni B Limited (ASX:NBL) is aware of several media articles prompted by a release issued by the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) as part of the union's campaign against Noni B Group's proposed Enterprise Agreement which, it is pleased to say, has been approved by 81% of relevant employees. Noni B Group believes that the SDA's campaign is not in the best interests of its members and perhaps based on an incomplete understanding of the facts.

The wellbeing and safety of all Noni B Group team members are paramount and at the core of the Group's corporate values. The Group is very proud of its safety record and achievements in promoting the welfare and wellbeing of its team members. It is deeply concerning and indeed disappointing to the Group that the SDA would take this course of action, publicising unsubstantiated safety concerns in an attempt to coerce the company to change a widely supported Enterprise Agreement.

The SDA is continuing to make misleading statements to the media regarding unilateral roster reductions and forced signed contracts. This is despite Noni B Group communicating clearly with the SDA on these matters.

Despite Noni B Group's willingness to meet with the SDA to discuss its concerns, particularly related to safety, disappointingly the SDA has been unwilling to meet to discuss these issues. If the SDA is aware of any safety issues that it has not raised with the Group, the Group remains ready and willing to meet with SDA representatives to understand and, if appropriate, clarify or address them.

Noni B Group is proud of its ability to turn around underperforming retailers and transform them into long-term sustainable businesses for all team members, customers and shareholders. Following the acquisition of the assets of the loss-making Specialty Fashion Group brands, 2019 is a year of transformation for Noni B Group. The Group is pleased with progress to date and, as always, is seeking to work cooperatively with all stakeholders to maintain its success. The Group has a consistent and proven approach to integration of new acquisitions and will maintain this approach and take all necessary steps to ensure future profitability and success for the Group and its team members. Maintenance of its philosophy and approach is even more important in the current difficult retail climate.

Noni B Group emphasises again that the proposed Enterprise Agreement was voted on by 3,960 team members, with the vast majority (81%) approving it. The Group and its team members see no reason why this Enterprise Agreement should not be approved by the Fair Work Commission. As part of this agreement, Noni B Group is very proud to have offered paid domestic and family violence leave and paid grandparental leave. The Group is disappointed that the SDA appears to be working to stand in the way of its team members' receiving above-award pay and enhanced leave entitlements. It would welcome a cooperative discussion with the union to ensure the best outcome in the context of the full facts.

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