



**Metcash Limited**

ACN 112 073 480  
4 Newington Road  
Silverwater  
NSW 2128 Australia  
PO Box 6226  
Silverwater Business Centre  
NSW 18811 Australia  
Ph: 61 2 9741 3000  
Fax: 61 2 9741 3027

Media Release: 14 July 2005

**METCASH TRADING LIMITED ACQUIRES ANOTHER  
STRATEGIC STAKE IN AN INDEPENDENT RETAIL CHAIN**

Leading independent grocery and liquor distributor, Metcash Limited announced today that it had acquired 25.1 per cent equity stake in Champions IGA Group in Bendigo from July 2005.

Champions IGA operates 6 supermarkets in Victoria trading as Champions Supa IGA, and management of the group will remain with the existing team while Metcash representatives will join the Board.

The CEO of Metcash, Mr Andrew Reitzer, said "The acquisition of 25.1 per cent of Champions IGA will enable both of our companies to benefit as a consequence of a closer alignment of business interests and strategy.

'In addition, the investment will facilitate the longer term retention of Champions as a key customer of IGA>D, (Metcash's grocery distribution business) and provide funding to enable Champions to grow and expand. Our objective is to ensure the long-term viability of the independent grocery business in Australia. In partnering with key IGA retailers such as Champions, we are working to secure the market share of independent grocers, constantly under pressure from the chains. This will benefit **all** stakeholders in the independent sector," added Mr Reitzer.

Mr Brendon Goddard, the CEO of Champions, said "this is an exciting day for Champions IGA. The Metcash investment signifies the value of our relationship and the high standing that Champions IGA enjoys in the retail community. Our partnership with Metcash has enabled us to grow whilst competing effectively with the two chains. This new level of our relationship will help us achieve our growth objectives of an additional 8 supermarkets over the next five years."

Mr Reitzer said that the Champions investment is an important step in the Metcash plan to implement strategic relationships with the company's customers. Alignment arrangements are being concluded with other major IGA retailers.

"Metcash is committed to championing the independent retailer and will continue to invest in these partnerships (both large and small) with the capital necessary to enhance the independent offer to consumers and thus protect the independent grocery sector," he added.

Mr Reitzer added "the relationships will be mutually beneficial and demonstrate the faith that we, our customers and their customers have in the IGA brand."

\*\*\*\*

For Further Information Call:

Andrew Reitzer  
Metcash Limited  
(02) 9741 3060

Lou Jardin  
IGA>D  
0417 279 176

Brendon Goddard  
Champions Supa IGA  
0419 563 798

Tim Allerton  
City Public Relations  
(02) 9267 4511  
(0412) 715 707