



Submission to

**Economics & Industry Standing Committee
Inquiry into the Franchising Bill 2010**

To Whom It May Concern:

My Name is Peter Berryman and I own Getaway Outdoors Geraldton (formally Ranger Outdoors Geraldton). Ranger Outdoors was a West Australian Franchise retailing mainly camping and fishing gear.

The Franchising Bill is very much needed as from personal experience the Franchising industry is very much run in favour of the Franchisor. We have lost the bulk of our Marketing Money due to inappropriate practises and though we knew there were problems we had nowhere to turn to get our situation resolved. It eventually took the financial collapse of the company, which very nearly took many of us with it, to reveal the full extent of the financial miss management of the Combined Franchisee's funds. What we needed was some sort of mechanism where we had the ability to check on the Franchisor by way of an independent Audit of Funds (Marketing Fund)held in trust for the Franchisee's.

Any additional costs borne by the Franchisee's by this Bill would be minimal compared to the benefits of the additional protection that it will help to afford.

In regard to the Franchise Council of Australia's stance on the Bill. I can only think "They do protest too much ". If all is well then they have nothing to fear by the introduction of a Bill that requires "that all parties act in good faith "

The economic, personal and social cost to failed Franchisee's can be very great and the benefits of affording them an increased measure of protection cannot be under estimated.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Berryman

Former Franchisee Ranger Outdoors Geraldton

24/1/2011