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## MEDIA RELEASE - Franchise Council of Australia

### 100-year business veteran says it will leave WA if Abetz bill passed

One of Western Australia's most outstanding small business success stories, Snap, has told the WA Government it will have to consider relocating interstate if the Franchising Bill 2010 is made law. With 147 outlets around Australia, Snap does not want to be disadvantaged by having to have all of its franchise agreements subject to additional and unnecessary State based legislation that will not apply to competitors located outside the State.

The Snap message follows a similar response from major WA brand QSR (Red Rooster, Oporto, Chicken Treat, CHOOKS Fresh & Tasty). QSR said it would take its business, including 3800 employees, out of WA if the Franchising bill was implemented.

The bill, which has been raised in private members' business by Liberal MP Peter Abetz with the support of WA Labor, introduces a range of draconian measures which far exceed any regulation anywhere else in Australia or overseas. And it comes on top of existing Federal legislation that was only amended in July 2010 after a comprehensive Federal review.

Snap is one of WA's longest standing franchise businesses founded as The Imperial Printing Co. in 1903 and achieved growth as the Snap brand under the leadership of Franchising Hall of Fame member, the late Paddy Thompson. Snap is earning WA and Australia important export income through its activities overseas in countries such as China, New Zealand and Ireland.

FCA Executive Director Steve Wright said the latest news was a further direct message to WA MPs.

"Mr Abetz may have good intentions, but the WA franchising sector does not want his bill," Mr Wright said.

Mr Wright said WA MPs had been inundated with emails and letters opposing the Abetz bill, which was drafted by University of NSW academic, Associate Professor Frank Zumbo, according to Mr Zumbo.

"Mr Zumbo purports to be an industry expert, but we don't see him at any FCA industry events and academia is a long way from the real world of franchising. To my knowledge he did not speak to any WA-based brands about the proposed bill, yet he has reportedly been actively lobbying WA MPs. This is an unusual role for an academic from Sydney, and it is not clear who he is representing – himself, UNSW or some other party? I think WA MPs and the WA small business community deserve a few answers."

**For more information, please contact:**

Alex Doran, Marketing Communications Manager

Franchise Council of Australia 0412 102 596 or email – [alex.doran@franchise.org.au](mailto:alex.doran@franchise.org.au)