



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

Our Ref: 50398
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20 December 2012

Mr Mathew Webster
Senior Associate
Norton Rose Australia
GPO Box 3872
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: mathew.webster@nortonrose.com

Dear Mr Webster

Third line forcing notification N96470 lodged by Luxottica Franchising Australia Pty Limited

I refer to the above third line forcing notification lodged with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) on 12 December 2012. The notification has been placed on the ACCC's public register.

Luxottica Franchising Australia Pty Limited will offer franchises on condition that the franchisees purchase certain products and services from suppliers nominated and approved by the Franchisor where those suppliers are not a related body corporate of the Franchisor.

Legal protection conferred by the notification will commence on 26 December 2012.

On the basis of the information that you have provided it is not intended that further action be taken in this matter at this stage.

As with any notification, please note that the ACCC may act to remove the immunity afforded by this notification at a later stage if it is satisfied that the likely benefit to the public from the conduct will not outweigh the likely detriment to the public from the conduct.

This assessment has been made on the basis that Luxottica Franchising Australia Pty Limited will disclose all relevant terms and conditions to current and prospective franchisees.

In particular I note that Luxottica Franchising Australia Pty Limited is required to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Franchising Code of Conduct in relation to the notified arrangement. Among other things, these specify that a franchisor must provide information to franchisees in its disclosure document about:

- any restrictions on acquisition of goods or services by the franchisee from other sources
- whether the franchisor or an associate will receive a rebate or other financial benefit from the supply of goods or services to franchisees, including the name of the business providing the rebate or financial benefit and
- whether any such rebate or financial benefit is shared directly or indirectly with franchisees.

More generally I would note that the Franchising Code of Conduct also requires disclosure of:

- ownership by a franchisor or an associate of a franchisor of an interest in any supplier from which the franchisee may be required to acquire goods or services
- any restrictions by a franchisor on the goods or services that a franchisee may supply and
- any restrictions on the persons to whom a franchisee may supply goods or services.

A copy of this letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Giannakos on (03) 9290 6920 or by email at anna.giannakos@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Richard Chadwick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch