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9 January 2018

Commissioner Lee
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: chambers.lee.c@fwc.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

Re: AM2017/50 Hair and Beauty Industry Award 2010 – request for adjournment

I write on behalf of the Australian Industry Group (**Ai Group**) and Hair and Beauty Australia (**HABA**) in relation to the above matter and a conference listed before the Fair Work Commission (**Commission**) on 18 January 2018 (**Conference**).

For the reasons that follow, Ai Group and HABA respectfully request that the Conference be adjourned and relisted not before 19 February 2018.

As foreshadowed during the proceedings before the Commission on 1 December 2017, we have since continued to engage in discussions with the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (**SDA**) regarding the various substantive changes sought to the *Hair and Beauty Industry Award 2010*. Those discussions have been productive and we intend to continue them, with the aim of resolving the various issues or, at the very least, considerably confining the scope of the dispute between the relevant organisations.

Unfortunately, our ability to progress discussions is presently somewhat limited by the unexpected absence of a key representative of HABA, whom we understand is expected to return to work in late January, after the Conference. This will necessarily impede upon the extent to which we are able to progress the matter prior to and during the Conference. We are concerned that if the Conference were to proceed, regrettably we may not be in a position to make productive use of the time set aside by the Commission.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Commission relist the matter for a conference not before 19 February 2018. In proposing a postponement until the aforesaid date, we have had regard to the following considerations in addition to that which is explained in the preceding paragraph:

- The grant of the adjournment sought would allow interested parties additional time to continue discussions;
- The leave arrangements of relevant personnel of Ai Group and the SDA during January; and
- Our understanding that the SDA would be unable to attend Commission proceedings on 12 – 16 February 2018.

We have discussed the proposed course of action with the SDA and we understand that they consent to the Conference being relisted.

We thank the Commission for its assistance with this matter and for its consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely,

Ruchi Bhatt
Senior Adviser – Workplace Relations Policy