



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

19 June 2012

NSW GOVERNMENT HELPS RETAILERS COMBAT SHOPLIFTING

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced a new program that shows retailers how they can prevent shoplifting and other crimes without spending a cent.

“The NSW Government and the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) have created innovative online training resources that will help retailers make their stores more resistant to crimes that affect their bottom line,” Mr Smith said.

The Preventing Retail Loss and Financial Risk program is an online training module that demonstrates how the design of a store can affect whether it is targeted by shoplifters.

“Retailers can reduce shoplifting and increase detection of the crime by following the training module’s guidelines on store layout, which include advice on arranging shelves and the placement of products,” Mr Smith said.

“The guidelines will cost little or nothing to implement, but could save retailers thousands of dollars.”

ARA Executive Director Russell Zimmerman said: “loss prevention should be at the forefront of retailer’s minds but we know retailers are very busy people often on the shop floor as well as running back of house operations.

“The flexibility offered by the online, self-paced learning means in a little as 30 minutes retailers can have practical skills to put into place on the shop floor that will help to minimise the impact and financial risk theft poses to retailers across NSW,” Mr Zimmerman said.

The first 500 NSW retailers to use the module will be granted free access, with the costs covered by the Department of Attorney General and Justice (DAGJ).

“The module has been user tested on retailers and there is significant demand for the program,” Mr Smith said.

To complement the training module, DAGJ has worked with NSW Police to develop an online Retail Security Resource that provides information on preventing a broader range of crimes that affect retailers, including fraud, break and enter, robbery and vandalism.

Commander of NSW Police Force's Operational Programs, Superintendent Helen Begg, says the Force is delighted to be working in partnership with the NSW Government and retailers for a safer retail environment.

"Crimes against retailers are a major concern for police and, like most things, prevention is the best remedy."

The NSW Government has made commitments through the State Plan 2021 to prevent and reduce crime while also improving the performance of the NSW economy.

"The O'Farrell Government will achieve these goals not by being soft on crime, but by being smart on crime," Mr Smith said.

The Preventing Retail Loss and Financial Risk training module is accessible via the websites: www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au and www.retail.org.au. The Retail Security Resource is available for free download at www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au.

According to the Global Retail Theft Barometer, retail theft cost the Australian economy more than \$2 billion in 2011 - the equivalent of 1.43 per cent of the nation's retail sales.