



Media Release
21 December 2020

HEALTH MINISTER BACKS SDA NSW CALL TO RESPECT RETAIL WORKERS, WEAR MASKS AND TIME SHOPPING TRIPS IN NSW

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard has endorsed the SDA Union's call for customers and the community to mask up, keep social distance and spread out their visits to the shops in the post-Christmas sale period.

Minister Hazzard said, "It is essential that people keep a social distance and mask up in order to help keep each other safe.

"Everyone in Greater Sydney should be wearing masks when shopping, on public transport or when out in the general community to help protect themselves, retail workers and our broader community.

"Retail workers have been essential workers during the pandemic, I urge everyone to show them respect and wear a mask before entering shops and keep your social distance," he said.

SDA NSW/ACT Secretary Bernie Smith said, "As the outbreak on Sydney's northern beaches grows, SDA NSW asks everyone across the city and the state to keep their cool, keep their distance and wear a mask when shopping to help protect not just retail workers, but our wider community.

"Face masks and social distancing are vital health measures we can all follow during this most recent outbreak. The health and safety of retail workers as well as our general community depend on it.

"The following days and weeks are crucial. In the lead-up to Christmas, plan your trips to avoid busy times and shop local when possible if restrictions allow.

"Take extra precaution around the popular post Christmas sales. Remember they are not a one day event. This year stay home and enjoy Boxing Day with your close family or friends and avoid the crowds.

"The reality is the sales usually run for about two weeks after Christmas. There is plenty of time to bag a bargain and stay safe too. Plan your sale visits over subsequent days to promote social distancing and help keep workers and fellow shoppers as safe as possible.

"Retail workers and fast food workers deserve a break. They are frontline workers and they're trying to do the best job they can. Show them respect, keep your cool and follow the rules. Don't get frustrated, remember no one deserves a serve," he said.

Bernie Smith is available for interview.
Media contact: Jane Garcia 0455 111 593