

## **SPAR Australia**

Fox Road  
Locked Bag 30  
Acacia Ridge Q 4110  
TEL: +61 7 3715 3000  
FAX: +61 7 3715 3001

7 October 2009

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **Permanent license granted to SPAR Australia**

A major milestone announcement was made at the 2009 SPAR Australia Annual General Meeting when Chairman, Stephen Roger, advised the company had entered into a Permanent License Agreement with SPAR International.

Testament to SPAR International's support of the company's endeavours in Australia, the permanent license was granted well before the expiration of SPAR Australia's current agreement.

"To have been offered this arrangement only three years after being issued our temporary license demonstrates the level of confidence SPAR International has in us and their enthusiasm for SPAR Australia to be part of the SPAR team worldwide," Mr Roger said.

"We have had many hurdles to overcome along the way but we have risen above it all thanks to the support, loyalty and focus of our retailers, management and board.

"This license is a significant milestone for the company and one that proves SPAR Australia is making a strong statement in the food industry. We have become a serious contender and supplier to independent retailers."

Echoing Mr Roger's sentiments, SPAR International CEO, Dr Gordon Campbell, stated that he and SPAR Australia's management could now move forward together with renewed confidence in the future of SPAR Australia.

"Retailers can be confident that the board and management team have established a stable, profitable company and a reliable support system to enable them to profitably develop their businesses," Mr Campbell said.

**<MORE OVER>**

This announcement lays a solid foundation for SPAR Australia to enter into new supply arrangements with other SPAR countries and discuss opportunities for investment in Australian stores.

Also announced at the Annual General Meeting was a 14.5 per cent increase in sales for SPAR stores over the 2009 financial year and a 33 per cent increase in store numbers – taking the total number of SPAR stores to over 100 in Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

The first of four flagship stores was unveiled in Deception Bay, with Gladstone, Byron Bay and Alexandria due to open their doors in the coming months.

Along with a focus on increasing store numbers, SPAR Australia also rolled out a number of retailer training programs, including the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE accredited SPAR Academy.

The SPAR brand is a global success boasting around 13,610 stores in 31 countries. SPAR is an acronym that means "Save" in Europe and last year, SPAR stores, all 100 per cent locally owned, injected close to \$400 million in sales into Australia's retail economy.

Worldwide, the SPAR group serves more than 10 million customers every day and supports local communities all over the world by sponsoring local sporting clubs, charities and community events.

**<ENDS>**

**For further information, please contact:**

Lisa Peebles, Marketing & Promotions Officer – SPAR Australia on (07) 3715 3138

Geoff Gale, GM Merchandise and Marketing - SPAR Australia on (07) 3715 3191