



ALDI Stores
(A Limited Partnership)
1 Sargents Road
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Media Release

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ALDI FIRST GROCERY RETAILER TO PROVIDE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

ALDI is set to become the first major grocery retailer to offer paid maternity leave for all employees.

Group Managing Director, Michael Kloeters said ALDI announced to employees yesterday that from the 1st April 2008 they would receive 14 weeks pay at 50 per cent while on maternity leave.

"ALDI will also extend its current unpaid maternity leave arrangements from 12 to 24 months.

"ALDI prides itself on the quality of its employees and provides a working environment which fosters a high level of employee satisfaction," he said.

"Paid maternity leave is the next logical step in terms of providing a solid working environment for employees and one which encourages loyalty.

"It has been part of our long term vision to become an employer of choice."

Mr Kloeters said the current skills shortage made employees and particularly long term ones a valuable commodity.

"We invest a substantial amount of time and money in employees and don't like to lose them, so we are hoping the provision of paid maternity leave will be an attractive retention strategy," he said.

Mr Kloeters said it was an important milestone to reach in terms of ALDI's organic growth.

"Our success directly correlates with the quality of our people," he said.

"The provision of paid maternity leave on top of other benefits such as five weeks annual leave per year and salaries that are well above industry standards, are a great motivator for people to join the ALDI fold.

"For us to remain as one of Australia's top ten retailers, it is imperative we implement initiatives such as paid maternity leave which help support parents when they want to come back to work."

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