

# Media Release

Thursday 24 April, 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MGA Independent Businesses Australia Statement on the Tragic Death of Local Grocer**

Darwin, NT – It is with profound sadness that we learn of the tragic loss of a 71-year-old store owner from the Friendly Grocer in Nightcliffe, Northern Territory, who died yesterday as a result of a fatal stabbing after confronting a shoplifter. Our deepest condolences go out to the family, friends, and community touched by this heartbreaking incident.

As the peak body representing independent grocers, we recognise the vital role that individuals like Linford Feik play in our communities. These local businesses are not just places to shop; they are the heart of our neighbourhoods, fostering connections and providing essential services.

The safety of our members and the communities they serve is of paramount importance. We stand in solidarity with our fellow grocers during this difficult time and urge the community to come together to support one another.

This tragedy highlights the ongoing challenges faced by retailers, and we must continue to have conversations about safety and the well-being of those who serve us daily. We are committed to advocating for initiatives that protect independent retailers and ensure a safer environment for both business owners, staff and their customers.

As we mourn the loss of this dedicated community member, we encourage everyone to remember how they contribute to our lives and communities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and the community during this challenging time. (end)

### **About MGAIBA**

MGA Independent Businesses Australia (MGAIBA) has been representing independent grocers since 1898. MGAIBA is a national employer industry association representing thousands of independent grocery and liquor outlets in all States and Territories of Australia. These businesses range from small to large and account for approximately \$16 billion in retail sales within the supermarket and liquor sectors, collectively employing over 120,000 people. Independent retailers represent about 15% of the supermarket and liquor retailing sectors. MGAIBA members trade under various respected banners, including FoodWorks, Foodland, Friendly Grocer, IGA, Supa IGA, SPAR, Cellarbrations, and The Bottle O. Although facing similar industry challenges as major chains, MGAIBA members have significantly fewer resources and many are family-operated, enduring the same economic pressures as the average Australian.

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

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