TRADE PRACTICES LAW JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

June 2009

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Quo vadis? Towards an effective predatory pricing provision – Garth Campbell	
The level of criticism directed at s 46 of the <i>Trade Practices Act 1974</i> (Cth) for its inability to capture predatory pricing indicates that smaller businesses are extremely concerned about this practice. Such criticism reached its peak following the High Court's decision in <i>Boral Besser Masonry Ltd v ACCC</i> (2003) 215 CLR 374, which rejected a claim of predatory pricing. Since then, the Birdsville Amendment and other recent amendments to s 46 have attempted to more effectively capture predatory pricing by defining it more accurately. However, it remains to be seen whether these amendments will be successful. This article assesses the application and effectiveness of the Birdsville Amendment by applying it to the facts of the Boral decision, in effect, re-deciding the case on the current law, and attempts to define the characteristics of a truly effective predatory pricing provision.	82
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This article reports findings from a survey of 999 larger Australian businesses about whom they listen to in forming their awareness of their compliance responsibilities under the <i>Trade Practices Act 1974</i> (Cth) (TPA), and what impact this has on their attitudes towards trade practices compliance and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The survey results show that Australian businesses mostly pay attention to media stories and their own lawyers in forming their awareness of the TPA. Contrary to expectations, it was found that those who listen more to media stories are more likely to have a higher moral commitment to comply with the TPA, and those that listen more to their own lawyers have a greater sense of the negative risks of failing to comply with its requirements.	106
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Customer service and sales inquiries:
Tel: 1300 304 195 Fax: 1300 304 196
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Editorial inquiries: Tel: (02) 8587 7000

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