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For Immediate Release Media Release April 6, 2020

FAIR WORK COMMISSION ASKED TO VARY AWARD TO KEEP REAL ESTATE AGENTS EMPLOYED

The REIA, on behalf of the state and territory Real Estate Institutes, has made a submission to the Fair Work Commission to vary the *Real Estate Industry Award 2020* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep as many real estate sales people employed as possible.

“Currently the *Award* requires that an agent make at least \$54.5k pa – the Minimum Income Threshold Amount (MITA) - for the previous three years before they can be employed on a commission only basis”, said Mr Adrian Kelly, President of the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

“REIA has requested that the Commission agree to a halving of the MITA in the current circumstances to keep as many of these agents employed as possible”.

“If this isn’t agreed to, with the certainty of decreased sales activity, these agents are at risk of being stood down as agencies struggle to stay open as long as they can”.

“Feedback REIA has had from its member state and territory Real Estate Institutes suggests that these agents would prefer to have the opportunity to continue to work.

“In response to this situation REIA proposes that the current MITA provisions of the *Award* be changed to 50% of those currently in place for the duration of the Coronavirus crisis.”

“This is an approach that encapsulates the spirit and intent of the Government’s initiatives of sharing the burden,” concluded Mr Kelly.

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The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia.

For further information or to speak with REIA President Adrian Kelly please contact Samantha Elley via media@reia.com.au or 0413 986 068.