



MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2019

SKILLS PACKAGE A WIN FOR ACCOMMODATION SECTOR: TAA NSW

Welcome news for NSW's accommodation sector with a financial injection for a skills package in last night's Federal Budget.

Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) NSW Acting CEO Dr Adele Lausberg said the Association had been running its own industry programs, including the successful Hotel Career Expo, to address the sector's labour challenges – but Federal Government support was needed.

“We currently have an investment pipeline of approximately 3000 rooms in NSW over the next three years which obviously creates an ongoing need for skilled and managerial staff, so we can't afford to have a failing labour force,” she said.

“We welcome new training measures along with programs to develop better pathways to long term careers and we look forward to working with the Government to ensure the accommodation sector in NSW is able to benefit from this investment. This Budget starts to address the importance of developing a strong and connected workforce that can help deliver better outcomes for tourism, and particularly the hospitality sector, in NSW.”

Federal Government support for the skills package will include a \$525.3M contribution to improve the quality of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system nationwide, with \$200.2M of this to go to a new apprenticeship incentive aimed at creating 80,000 additional apprentices nationally over five years in priority skills shortage areas. The incentive will double existing payments to employers to \$8,000 per apprentice placement - new apprentices will also receive a \$2,000 incentive payment. This includes much-needed culinary roles such as pastry cooks.

Dr Lausberg also welcomed new infrastructure funding including \$3.5B for stage one of the Western Sydney North South Rail Link, saying it was “vital to continue to invest in key NSW infrastructure projects.”

“Tourism is a versatile and robust industry and with investment in the right places, like skills training, apprenticeship programs and infrastructure, the outcomes can be of huge consequence,” Dr Lausberg said.

Dr Lausberg said other job stimulus areas in the budget included changes to the visa system designed to support regional Australia. From November 2019, two new regional visas will be implemented which will permit skilled migrants to stay and work in the regions for five years. TAA NSW is also pleased that extensions will be granted to Temporary Graduate Visas from November 2021.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jason Bartlett, 0433 95 46 57