

## **Advocacy**

### **Extension of JobKeeper and State measures**

Following significant industry advocacy, the Federal Government announced the extension of JobKeeper to the end of March 2021. We also advocated strongly for the supporting Fair Work measures. Federal Parliament will legislate changes to the Job Keeper and Job Seeker packages this week as they resume sitting.

The Association has now written to all State Premiers/Chief Ministers to seek a continuation of relief measures for the accommodation sector in line with JobKeeper extension. These measures include payroll tax waivers; extension of Mandatory Tenancy Code measures; reduction in physical distancing requirements to 2sqm; clear policy on the application of enhanced health and border measures.

We have already commenced meetings in each state outlining the rationale and potential impacts, with clear indications that states are active in reviewing the extension of relief measures.

### **JobTrainer Fund**

On the 16th of July 2020, the Prime Minister announced the \$2 billion JobTrainer Skills package. The package includes the establishment of a new \$1 billion JobTrainer fund (\$500 million from Federal Government with matched contributions from State and Territory Governments). The JobTrainer fund will provide for around 340,700 additional training places to help school leavers and job seekers gain the skills through qualifications, skill sets and pre-apprenticeships.

To inform the identification of courses funded via the JobTrainer Fund, the National Skills Commission (NSC) will create an indicative list of qualifications. This list will be provided to State and Territory Governments to help inform and determine the qualifications and short courses.

The Association in liaison with members and the relevant Advisory Boards inclusive of the National Advisory Board on Employment, has provided initial input into the qualifications and short courses the industry will require. We have been liaising with the Interim Skills Commissioner, Adam Boyton, to outline industry specific requirements and the road to recovery.

### **Association Pre-Budget Submission reinforces Road to Recovery**

The Association's pre-budget submission provided to Treasury this month continues to reinforce the importance of active measures that re-invigorate the tourism economy.

Key measures include:

- The need to increase investment in funding for Tourism Australia over the forward estimates not only to re-invigorate international travel once borders open but to maintain its leadership and spend in the domestic market during this period.
- Invest in Border measures to restore confidence in international travel. The Australian Government to develop a 3-step plan to opening of the borders, which includes an investment with global operators to prioritise a long-term sustainable solution that encourages travel to Australia and maintains our attractiveness as a safe destination.
- Funding of Visa measures that improve competitiveness and stimulate international travel.
- Extension of JobKeeper funding for Victorian businesses beyond March 2021.
- Fair Taxation of the Short-Term Rental sector
- We welcomed the JobTrainer fund but seek further funding for a review of industry pathways to provide guidance to students undertaking VET in Schools and an extension of JobTrainer

funding to cover the development of Pathway programs linking Year 10 students to industry. This will strengthen the job outcomes for students.

### **Government response to Franchising Inquiry**

The Government Response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services' Fairness in Franchising report was released on 20 August 2020. This inquiry was commenced over two years ago, largely in response to a perceived power imbalance between franchisee and franchisor in a number of retail franchises. The Association provided a submission reinforcing the integrity of the different franchise models that operate in the accommodation industry.

The Government has acknowledged that many franchisor/franchisee relationships are healthy but is committed to strengthening the regulatory framework. They have announced the following Franchising reforms:

- Doubling the penalties that apply for breaches of the Franchising Code.
- Strengthening dispute resolution options by introducing conciliation and voluntary binding arbitration.
- Improving disclosure relating to supply arrangements, marketing funds, exit arrangements and significant capital expenditure.
- Introducing a public register of franchisors to increase transparency in the sector.
- Developing a franchising website to make it easier for both franchisors and franchisees to access information and support.
- Prohibiting franchisors unilaterally imposing significant capital expenditure on franchisees during the term of an agreement.