



Restaurant
& Catering

3 April 2020

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Member for Cook
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email

Dear Prime Minister

I write to request that you urgently consider a change to the JobKeeper Payment which would expand the offering of payments to certain visa holders who are currently working in Australia. Currently, there are more than 1.1 million migrant workers in Australia, many working in industries like hospitality where COVID-19 restrictions have had the most financial impact.

Restaurant and Catering Australia (R&CA) represents the interests of over 47,000 restaurants, cafes and caterers who employ more than 450,000 people. The most recent visa category figures issued by the Department of Home Affairs note there over 154,000 TSS Visa holders and almost 150,000 WHV holders. As recently as 2016, the Lowy Institute reported that 12.1% of TSS Visa holders worked in the broader Accommodation and Food Services Industry. Further to this, the 2nd 3rd highest nominated occupation for approved visas was Cook/Chef and Café/Restaurant Manager respectively behind only Developer/Programmer.

Of these TSS Visa workers employed across our sector, many have been stood down due to COVID-19 restrictions and have been left in a dire situation with no source of income whatsoever and alternative source of income to pay rent, bills and meet other basic costs such as food.

These TSS Visa holders moved their families and careers to Australia and once possible, wish to return to their positions and continue to work and contribute to the Australian Economy during the recovery phase.

In our industry, they will be an integral part of this recovery similar to the part they played prior to the COVID-19 crisis.

For WHV holders in Australia, the overwhelming majority of these are casual employees. In the broader Accommodation and Food Services Industry, 65% of all employees are casual, representing 20% of all of Australia's casual workforce, the highest of any sector across the Australian economy. The occupation groups that recorded the highest prevalence of casual



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employees were hospitality workers (79 per cent of all workers) and food preparation assistants (75 per cent) as per ABS figures.

Attached you will find numerous letters from restaurateurs and business owners across the country to make the business case to government on behalf of their employees. These business owners have been left with no choice but to stand down or terminate these workers' employment and are concerned for their future wellbeing and ability to provide for their families.

They, and many other R&CA members that we have spoken to personally support our call for the expansion of the JobKeeper payment to ensure these workers are kept in Australia and safeguard our sector's recovery efforts.

Should you or your office require further information, do not hesitate to contact R&CA.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes Lambert', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD
Chief Executive Officer
Restaurant and Catering Australia

cc.

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer of Australia

The Hon. Peter Dutton, Minister for Home Affairs

The Hon. Alan Tudge, Acting Minister for Immigration