

Industry needs 123,000 more workers by 2020

In order to meet the needs of the growing industry, Australia's tourism and hospitality sector will require an additional 123,000 workers by 2020, the 2015 Australian Tourism Labour Force Report has found.

The report estimated that inbound travel would grow by six percent annually from 2015-2020, with the number of international visitors growing from the current 7.2 million to over 10 million by 2023-24.

Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) said the report identified that there would be a need for 60,000 skilled positions, requiring a major lift in local recruitment and training as well as a relaxation in temporary skilled migration provisions including 457 visas and working holiday visas.

The last Australian Tourism Labour Force Report was conducted in 2011, under the direction of then Tourism Minister, Martin Ferguson, who is now chair of Tourism Accommodation Australia. He said "Since 2011, the pace of develop-



ment in the tourism and hotel sector has increased significantly and while some positive progress has been made in recruitment and retention, supply of skilled labour is not keeping up with demand.

"The TRA survey identified a large increase in the proportion of businesses reporting skills deficiencies, growing from 50 percent of

businesses in 2011 to 69 percent in 2015, and while NSW and Victoria reported the highest volume of skills shortages, all states and territories were affected with the Northern Territory and Western Australia particularly vulnerable to skilled labour shortages," he said.

Australia is undergoing its most rapid period of hotel development,

with over 70 hotels and some 10,000 rooms under construction or in advanced stages of planning.

"The massive growth in hotel development will put particular strains on the industry because Australia is competing in an increasingly competitive world tourism market and there is a critical need to enhance service standards," Ferguson said.

"It is important for the industry to 'grow its own' and invest in training and career development, and we need to place greater emphasis on attracting more mature aged, youth and Indigenous Australians into the industry."

Ferguson said that since the last Tourism Labour Force Report, the rate of dependence on overseas workers has dropped from 13 percent of the total workforce to 10 percent and argued that with such an "unprecedented pipeline" of new hotel development and increasing international demand, governments need to be flexible, especially in regards to temporary skilled workers.



Out & about

Industry events the Hospitality team attended recently...

25 March
Hunter Valley
Uncorked Festival

April 4
Masterclass @
Cafe Sydney

April 9
1st birthday party
@ Coogee Pavilion

April 9
Mr Black
Grindhouse party

April 10
Huon Aquaculture
tour in Tasmania

April 10
Filming @ Rabbit
Hole Tea Bar



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