



Member Newsletter

April 2006

LABOUR MARKET SHORTAGES, TRAINING and SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

One of the issues identified by NTA members as a key priority for the NTA were the issues impacting on their workforce needs—industrial relations, education & training, skills development and labour shortages.

These issues are made more complex by the involvement of many different parties — government departments (federal and state), industrial organizations who represent the industry in the various industrial relations tribunals, skills councils with tri-partite representation, and so on. The NTA has an existing Policy Working Group that has acted as a 'clearing house' for issues of common interest to members.

More recently, the NTA has approached the various Commonwealth Government departments involved in these issues — the Dept of Industry, Tourism & Resources, Dept of Employment & Workplace Relations, Dept of Employment, Science and Training and the Dept of Immigration. As you can see, this is not a straightforward matter to address, particularly when each State government also has its own portfolio for training and education.

By getting all the Commonwealth Departments together, we were able to find out what information and research work they do have to assist the industry. Further, we have now asked them to form a working group to allow the industry to share that information and to influence the policies they adopt which will benefit the industry.

Further, at its last Board meeting, the NTA decided to form a broadly based industry working group to ensure members can have a say in how these issues are pursued. We will be calling for nominations to that group in the near future.

GST TREATMENT OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Recently, a Press Release by the Minister for Revenue & Assistant Treasurer on 27 February 2006 foreshadowed changes to proposed legislation on the GST treatment of strata-titled apartments, which could have an adverse impact on our industry. The NTA has now written to Patrick Colmer, General Manager, Indirect Tax Division in The Treasury to say that the industry:

- is opposed to retrospective changes in the law due to the potential impact and unfairness and considers that the currently proposed legislation is the best way to deal with this issue and remove the disadvantages of retrospectivity.
- agrees that the clarification of the definitions as proposed will ensure serviced apartment complexes will be treated in the same way as other commercial premises.
- supports the inclusion of the proposed elective regime as the best way to ensure genuine owners of premises leased by operators for commercial accommodation, are able to claim the correct tax treatment.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **POST BUDGET BRIEFING —
Wednesday, 10 May 2006**
- **NTA ANNUAL DINNER -
Wednesday, 14 June 2006**

MEMBERS' MEETING

A well-attended NTA members' meeting on 6 April created spirited discussion on a range of issues. The meeting was also addressed by Tourism Australia on progress with their campaign to revitalize domestic tourism.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources is now pursuing surveys of businesses and tourists to assess what the needs of the industry and travelers are. NTA will be representing the industry in that project.

NTA is also pursuing other issues raised there — Taxes & Charges and Stamp Duty on Airline Global Insurance Policies.

Sponsors



NTA Board Members

Col Hughes - Chairman	Steven Clarke - ADFA
Mike Hatton - AFTA (Deputy Chair)	Bill Healey - AHA
Owen Johnstone-Donnet - TTF	Mike Cannon - AACB
Matthew Hingerty - ATEC	Daniel Gschwind - QTIC

NTA Members

ACT Tourism Industry Council	Board of Airline Representatives of Australia	Tourism Alliance Victoria
Assoc of Australian Convention Bureaux	Caravan, RV & Accommodation Industry of Australia	Tourism Council Tasmania
Australian Casino Association	Hotel, Motel and Accommodation Assoc	Tourism Council Western Australia
Australian Duty Free Association	Meetings Events Australia	Tourism Industry Council NSW
Australian Federation of Travel Agents	Queensland Tourism Industry Council	Tourism & Transport Forum Australia
Australian Hotels Association	Restaurant and Catering Australia	Victorian Tourism Industry Council
Australian Tourism Export Council	South Australia Tourism Alliance	Winemakers Federation of Australia

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