



Member Newsletter

July 2006

LABOUR MARKET ISSUES

As a result of perseverance by the industry, the Commonwealth Government has announced an inquiry into the workforce needs of the tourism industry, to be conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation.

The inquiry was referred by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews.

The Committee is to inquire into and report on workforce challenges in the Australian tourism sector, with particular reference to the following:

- Current and future employment trends in the industry;
- Current and emerging skill shortages and appropriate recruitment, coordinated training and retention strategies;
- Labour shortages and strategies to meet seasonal fluctuations in workforce demands;
- Strategies to ensure employment in regional and remote areas; and Innovative workplace measures to support further employment opportunities and business growth in the tourism sector.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make written submissions to the inquiry by **25 August 2006**, after which the Committee will hold public hearings.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/>

ONGOING FUNDING FOR THE INDUSTRY

The top priority for the NTA has always been the implementation of the Tourism White Paper (TWP). The funding of \$235m for the TWP is due to expire at the end of June 2008.

As a result, the NTA is now developing a strategy to ensure that government provides ongoing support for the industry beyond the current TWP.

The current TWP allocated approximately 98% of this funding to the activities of Tourism Australia and to the ATDP. Currently, an evaluation is being carried out by the DITR into the effectiveness of TA's international marketing and also the ATDP. We expect to have the results of that research available within the next two months and will provide members with an update.

In the meantime, the NTA Board will be considering a 'road map' which will see the NTA undertake a vigorous campaign with government to ensure that the needs of the industry are met. Extensive consultation with the NTA membership will also be undertaken. Our goal is to ensure that we have assurances from both political parties in the lead-up to the next Federal election that the tourism and hospitality industry is a top priority in their respective policy platforms.

IMPORTANT DATES

Members' Meeting—10 August

(inc a Members' Forum on Education, Training, Skills and Labour Shortages)

Note: This meeting will also be asked to consider a Special Resolution to update the NTA Constitution. Copies of the new Constitution will be sent out with the Agenda Papers on 20 July.

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Following on from the success of the Australian Tourism Awards in February this year, the NTA is now well down the track on organizing the ATAs for 2007. An ATA Board of Management has been appointed, with John Ward as Chair.

The event will be held in Sydney next February, with Tourism NSW as the host State sponsor. All State Governments and Tourism Australia contribute resources to the success of the event, which showcases the excellence of our industry.

Sponsors



DIAGEO



NTA Board Members

Col Hughes - Chairman
Mike Hatton - AFTA (Deputy Chair)
Owen Johnstone-Donnet - TTF
Matthew Hingerty - ATEC

Steven Clarke - ADFA
Bill Healey - AHA
Mike Cannon - AACB
Daniel Gschwind - QTIC

NTA Members

ACT Tourism Industry Council
Assoc of Australian Convention Bureaux
Australian Casino Association
Australian Duty Free Association
Australian Federation of Travel Agents
Australian Hotels Association
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