



Restaurant  
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## R&CA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS OF INDUSTRY SPECIALIST MENTORS

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has today announced the appointment of eleven industry specialist mentors as part its project for the Commonwealth Government's Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program.

Speaking from an all-day induction event held in Melbourne today, R&CA CEO Juliana Payne welcomed each of the new industry specialist mentors to their roles.

"I'm delighted to welcome here today our eleven mentors who have each had a rich and diverse range of experiences in the hospitality sector forged over many years.

"Their expert mentorship will help nurture the next generation of talent coming through the ranks, ensuring that students are well-equipped with the skills and expertise they need to thrive in a long-term, hospitality sector career," Ms Payne said.

R&CA has appointed the following industry specialist mentors who will be based throughout in Australia in various locations across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory:

- **Graham Megginson** - Graham has been appointed as R&CA's Lead Apprenticeship Mentor and is based in Brisbane. Graham previously studied hospitality at an apprenticeship-level and trained as a chef before he became Head Chef, Catering Manager and Operations Manager for a multimillion pound company in the United Kingdom managing eighteen restaurants in the south of England. In addition to his direct experience in the hospitality sector, he has also worked as a Trainer for both Certificate III Commercial Cookery and Certificate III Hospitality;
- **Lee Day** - Lee is based in Brisbane, covering the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane North area. He brings extensive knowledge of the hospitality industry having started out as a Chef, becoming a Hospitality Manager and then moving on to train Hospitality, Commercial Cookery and Business;
- **Phillip Hagen** - Phillip, who is a qualified chef and trainer, joins R&CA as a part-time Mentor based in Brisbane;
- **Alston Joseph** - Based in Sydney, Alston joins R&CA as a Mentor having had many years' experience in food and beverage management in prestige hotels;
- **Robert Boundy** - Based in Umina Beach, NSW, Robert has many years' experience as a qualified Chef and Trainer;



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- **Misty Kelly** - Misty is based in Summer Island, NSW and is a qualified and experienced Chef and Manager. Misty joins the team as a part time Mentor and will cover the Coffs Harbour region;
- **Daniel Giordani** - Based in Canberra, Daniel is a Chef and former restaurant owner;
- **Marco Prati** - Based in Melbourne, Marco is a qualified chef and trainer with a passion for patisserie;
- **Yasshin Mahadeo** - Based in Melbourne, Yasshin brings with him experience in both the hospitality and retail sectors;
- **Owen Quinn** - Owen is based in Melbourne and is an experienced chef whose previous roles include Group Sous Chef for The Lucas Group; and
- **Luke Dumont** - Based in Adelaide, Luke is a hospitality professional with many years of kitchen experience.

Ms Payne emphasised the role of R&CA's industry mentors in encouraging more apprentices and trainees to fully complete their courses after the initial two-year period, which is statistically the most likely point where students choose to discontinue their training.

"Our mentors' vast knowledge and insights on the hospitality sector will be invaluable to young apprentices wanting to pursue a long-term career in our industry.

"Their experiences will give students a real-life example of exactly what it means to go on and use your skills and training in an exciting and diverse career pathway which can take you all over the world."

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For further information on this media release, please contact:

Juliana Payne

Chief Executive Officer

Restaurant & Catering Industry Association

P: 1300 722 878

E: [restncat@restaurantcater.asn.au](mailto:restncat@restaurantcater.asn.au)