



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
9 May 2018

R&CA WELCOMES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET BOOST TO SMALL BUSINESS

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has welcomed announcements in the 2018-19 Federal Budget aimed at improving the business operating environment for small businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector.

The 2018-19 Budget included an extension of the Government's instant asset write off programme to 30 June 2019, enabling small businesses with an annual turnover of up to \$10 million to immediately deduct eligible assets each costing less than \$20,000.

The Federal Budget has also provided clarity on the ability of businesses to access refunds as part of the Skilling Australians Fund when sponsoring overseas workers. Businesses will be able to access refunds if sponsored visa-holders do not commence employment, are refused on health or character grounds or depart their employer within the first 12 months.

R&CA CEO Juliana Payne welcomed the Federal Government's budget measures designed to provide businesses with certainty and to encourage further growth across high-priority sectors such as hospitality.

"With over 92 per cent of businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector small businesses with 19 employees or less, it is critical that the Federal Government pursues policies which enable these businesses not just to succeed but to thrive.

"The massive jobs growth forecast for the café, restaurant and catering sector over the next five years simply cannot be achieved without government policies at all levels that encourage and support a strong business operating environment.

"Alongside the extension of the instant asset write off programme for another year, we are pleased that this year's Budget has provided small businesses with certainty in relation to accessing refunds from the Skilling Australians Fund levy.

"With the commencement date of the Skilling Australians Fund now confirmed, it is critical that projects supporting high-growth industries such as the café, restaurant and catering sector are prioritised as part of the projects delivered under this scheme across each of the states and territories.



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“The chronic skills shortages across key hospitality occupations such as chef, cook and café and restaurant manager continue to threaten the viability of café and restaurant businesses across the nation and ensuring a healthy pipeline of locally-trained apprentices and trainees is critical for their ongoing success,” Ms Payne said.

Ms Payne also commended the Government’s focus on tackling the black economy, welcoming measures such as reducing the costs of accepting debit card payments and incentivising businesses to adopt non-cash forms of payments recommended as part of the Black Economy Taskforce’s Final Report.

“We are pleased that the Government is finally taking decisive action on the scourge of the black economy which unfairly penalises café and restaurant business-owners who do the right thing in abiding by their various regulatory and taxation obligations.

“The suite of recommendations included in the Black Economy Taskforce’s Final Report was developed in close collaboration with industry stakeholders, including R&CA, and we are committed to working alongside the Federal Government and other stakeholders to clamp down on the black economy in the hospitality sector,” Ms Payne said.

For further information on this media release, please contact:

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