



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
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R&CA WELCOMES FAIR WORK COMMISSION'S WHAT'S NEXT STRATEGY

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has welcomed the release of yesterday's Fair Work Commission (FWC) strategy *What's Next: the Fair Work Commission's plan to improve access and reduce complexity for our users*"

The FWC's *What's Next* strategy is aimed at assisting small business-owners navigate the complexities of Australia's workplace relations system by making the Commission's services more accessible.

R&CA CEO Juliana Payne commended the FWC in developing the *What's Next* strategy, stating that the changes being implemented over the next 12 months will help to modernise Australia's workplace relations system.

"R&CA strongly supports the FWC's changes as part of the *What's Next* strategy, particularly as it relates to assisting small business-owners with unfair dismissal cases and providing short summaries of key modern awards.

"The overwhelming feedback that we receive from our members is that the complexity of the current workplace relations system is inconsistent with the needs of small businesses.

"This is particularly relevant for businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector as over 90 per cent are small businesses with 19 employees or less.

"The time and cost pressures involved in operating a small business such as a café or restaurant mean that business-owners simply do not have the resources to navigate an overly complex and difficult workplace relations system," Ms Payne said.

Whilst welcoming the FWC's changes, Ms Payne however urged that further simplification of Australia's workplace relations system is still required.

"Whilst the *What's Next* strategy is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, there is still a significant amount of work which still needs to be completed to achieve a more simplified workplace relations system for the benefit of both employees and small business-owners.

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