



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
12 July 2018

R&CA ISSUE RESPONSE TO FAIR WORK OMBUDSMAN FINDINGS

Following the release of a Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) audit finding a significant proportion of hospitality businesses with non-compliant workplace practices, Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) CEO, Juliana Payne, issued the following statement:

“R&CA in no way condones or accepts any such behaviour. All business-owners need to comply with the relevant legislation and regulation or be subject to penalties under the law.

“R&CA is extremely disappointed that the reputation of the hospitality industry has been affected by the actions of these non-compliant business-owners.

“These poor practices undermine the integrity of the entire industry and unfairly penalise those hardworking café and restaurant owners who operate their businesses in a lawful and compliant fashion and fully abide by all relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks.

“As the peak industry association representing the interests of over 45,000 hospitality businesses, R&CA has taken a proactive and responsive approach towards informing and educating individual businesses as to their various workplace obligations and responsibilities towards their staff.

“R&CA’s approach includes working and collaborating closely with the FWO to address incidences of non-compliance and working to prevent future occurrences.

“R&CA is committed to rectifying this situation and will continue its work with the FWO to identify and eliminate poor practices and improve compliance.

“R&CA constantly stresses the vital importance of businesses complying with their relevant legal and regulatory obligations, including workplace relations legislation.

“As part of its commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards of compliance across the industry, R&CA maintains a workplace relations advisory service staffed by



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE 12 July 2018

industrial relations specialists which assists members in interpreting and applying the Fair Work Act as well as correcting any errors.

“R&CA believes that a distinction however should be drawn between the deliberate and systematic underpayment of wages, superannuation and other entitlements with genuine, accidental oversights which are often immediately corrected.

“R&CA argues that Australia’s workplace relations system should be further simplified and streamlined to minimise the likelihood of any such genuine oversights occurring in the future.

“There is a strong imperative to ensure that Australia’s workplace relations system is simple, easy to comprehend and unconvoluted to ensure that small businesses avoid non-compliance.”

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