



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
11 December 2018

SKILLED MIGRATION KEY FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, R&CA SAYS

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has today welcomed the release of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ACCI) policy position paper on migration – *Migration Works for all of us – Delivering benefits to all Australia*.

R&CA CEO Juliana Payne emphasised the Association's support for ACCI's policy platform, highlighting how a sensible, well-managed approach towards skilled migration can deliver significant economic and social benefits for all sections of Australian society.

Ms Payne also expressed the Association's support for the policy recommendations put forward in the paper including ensuring employers' access to various skilled occupations, improving visa processing times and reducing the red tape associated with the existing skilled migration system.

"As the Association has constantly stressed in the past, business-owners in the café, restaurant and catering sector are heavily dependent on the availability of skilled workers from overseas to operate sustainably and effectively.

"Shortages across key hospitality occupations such as cooks, chefs and café and restaurant managers are one of the biggest barriers hospitality operators face in managing their businesses successfully.

"We simply cannot escape the fact that Australia, as both a nation and as economy, cannot function effectively without the help of overseas migration to assist businesses in meeting their needs for highly skilled workers.

"We would strongly urge all governments across Australia to recognise the immense benefits of skilled migration to all sectors of the Australian economy and not to place onerous provisions on employers trying to access the skilled labour they need.

"The absence of favourable policies at both a Federal and State government level ensuring that skilled migration can continue in adequate numbers will only serve to put jobs growth in industries such as hospitality at risk.



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“The chronic skills shortages which have emerged in recent years threaten productivity levels and business development in not only the café, restaurant and catering sector but the Australian economy as a whole.

“We strongly welcome the Australian Chamber’s policy document today calling for sensible and measured steps in managing Australia’s skilled migration intake so that employers across the country can continue to access the skilled labour needed to serve our economy both now and into the future,” Ms Payne said.

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