



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
15 February 2019

WHEN LABOR GOES TOO FAR

Following the workplace decision in *Workpac v Skene* a loophole was created that allowed casual employees to claim the benefits of a full-time employee in addition to the 25% casual loading they are already paid. This sparked outrage across Australian businesses and even most employees agreed that it was unfair to be paid the casual loading and receive the benefits as well. The loading was intended to compensate casual employees for those benefits.

The Federal Government last year passed legislation to close the double-dipping loophole.

This week Labor has forgotten about Australians' entitlement to a fair go, by moving to disallow the legislation that closes this loophole.

Closing the *Workpac* loophole provided the opportunity for bi-partisanship based on delivering a fair outcome for the greater good of the Australian economy. The potential liability of this loophole exceeds \$8 billion and the majority of this burden will be borne by small business owners, and ultimately their staff. This is an unjust burden to place on the small business sector. There are over 40,000 restaurants, cafes and caterers across Australia put at risk, as well as the 630,000 jobs in this sector.

On behalf of these small business people and their communities, we urge the Federal Government and the cross bench Senators to reject the disallowance motion being promoted by Labor.

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

Juliana Payne – CEO

Restaurant & Catering Industry Association

P: 0468 328 513

E: restncat@restaurantcater.asn.au
