



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
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RESTAURANT AND CATERING INDUSTRY WELCOMES ALP MIGRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Juliana Payne, CEO, of the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association (R&CA) welcomed yesterday's announcement by Labor's Shadow Minister for Immigration, the Hon Shayne Neumann MP, that the Short-Term Skilled Occupation List and Medium and Long-Term Strategic Skills List will be abolished under an incoming Labor Government.

Ms Payne said "Our industry's businesses have been facing significant challenges in recruiting suitably skilled employees, particularly Chefs, for many years now. Since the 482 TSS visa replaced the 457 visa, this has been even more difficult as restaurant establishments have found it increasingly hard to attract skilled foreign nationals to fill vacancies because there was no longer any pathway to reward Cooks and Restaurant Managers with an employer- supported permanent residence visa."

"Labor's announcement that there will be one Skills Shortage Occupations List with pathways to permanent residence to meet Australia's future skills is a step in the right direction", the R&CA CEO said and called on the Coalition to follow suit.

"There are over 620,000 migrant owned businesses in Australia who employ more than 1.41 million Australians, many of them in the restaurant and catering sector."

"They need to have access to suitably qualified foreign nationals, when suitable staff cannot be sourced from the local workforce, in order to remain viable."

"Our economy works best when Australia welcomes young skilled migrants to fill obvious gaps in the labour market and help our businesses to employ more Australians.

Ms Payne said she had also been reassured by the ALP's statement that industry would be consulted and have a seat at the table for all migration-related issues and looks forward to having those discussions.

The CEO of the R&CA, Ms Payne, concluded by saying that any plans to cap Australia's yearly intake of migrants should not be at the expense of small and family businesses. Hospitality businesses need suitably qualified staff that may not be easily found in the local Australian workforce. Skilled migration is an important channel to ensure they can find labour to continue to grow and meet the needs of Australian and international consumers.



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Restaurant & Catering Australia is the peak industry body representing the interests of 45,000 restaurant, cafes and caterers across the country.

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