



Restaurant  
& Catering

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**1 April 2019**

---

## **SMALL BUSINESS IS A BIG DEAL**

Restaurant and Catering Australia (R&CA) CEO Juliana Payne said that the association was proud to be part of the “Small Business is a Big Deal” campaign with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Launched today in Sydney the campaign laid out the three things Small Business and millions of Australians need from the next Federal Government.

1. Help employers and employees work together;
2. Deliver affordable, reliable energy with lower emissions; and
3. To Stop the Collapse in Skills.

Also representing the restaurant catering sector at today’s launch was Nino Zoccali, a Chef and Business Owner who explained that with “cafes, restaurants and catering companies you have a sector whose profit on revenue is 2%, which needs to be kept firmly in mind when (one considers) the impacts of increases in wages”. Any substantial hikes to the minimum wage could force small businesses to close and lead to an increase in lay-offs.

“Our industry should be a really good news story for all parts of government and everybody, it’s a sector that is growing, tourism is booming and the government spends a lot of money promoting restaurants as the jewels in the Australian crown but there is a massive skills shortage and therefore we aren’t been given the tools to do the job in terms of skills and training with a 40% year on year decline in apprentices for the restaurant sector.”

“Many Australians kids don’t want to be chefs and those that do are often discouraged by their parents and school counsellors.” Nino Zoccali concluded.

Ms Payne said “we need to encourage more young people to join our industry through apprenticeships, and start them off on the many fantastic careers available in hospitality.”

“When those staff cannot be sourced from the local workforce, restaurants, cafes and catering businesses will need greater access to suitably qualified skilled migrants, in order to remain viable.”

“Restaurant and Catering are part of this campaign to ensure that whoever forms government after the next Federal Election understands that the café, restaurant and



Restaurant  
& Catering

## MEDIA RELEASE

1 April 2019

---

takeaway food sector currently has over 42,805 businesses, employing around 630,000 Australians with a recorded turnover of \$26.9 billion. The vast majority are small businesses employing fewer than 20 employees and they are A BIG DEAL if Australia's economy is to continue to thrive."

MEDIA CONTACT:

**Julian Harniman**

**M: 0419 923119**