



Restaurant
& Catering

SAVOUR
AUSTRALIA



9 September 2019

Committee Secretary

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Inquiry into the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
2019

By Email: eesbc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. R&CA notes that the bill is an omnibus piece of legislation containing many changes to various acts.

Background

Restaurant & Catering Australia is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 47,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses across Australia. R&CA delivers tangible outcomes to small businesses within the hospitality industry by influencing the policy decisions and regulations that impact the sector's operating environment.

R&CA is committed to ensuring the industry is recognised as one of excellence, professionalism, profitability and sustainability. This includes advocating the broader social and economic contribution of the sector to industry and government stakeholders, as well as highlighting the value of the restaurant experience to the public.

R&CA notes that Queensland currently has the second highest number of public holidays of any Australian state with 12 days gazetted as public holidays.

Queensland's Restaurant, Café and Catering Industry

Australian Bureau of Statistics Data shows that as at June 2018, the most recent Count of



RESTAURANT & CATERING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 121, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010 T: 1300 722 878 F: 1300 722 396 E: info@restaurantcater.asn.au
www.R&CA.asn.au

Australian Businesses showed 6,173 Cafes and Restaurants operating across Queensland.

The most recent Census data shows that 49,488 workers derive their primary source of income from Café's and Restaurants, making up 2.3% of the total workforce for the state of Queensland. This sector represents the fourth largest employment sector by employed people in the state of Queensland.

Amendments to Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003

R&CA notes that it is critical that Queensland retains the lowest workers compensation premiums in Australia, thereby promoting the State as a competitive and prosperous business operating environment. Queensland's workers' compensation premiums are a central element to help make keep Queensland an easier place to start and do business.

The impetus for these changes are to give effect to the recommendations from the most recent five-yearly independent review into the Queensland workers compensation scheme by Professor David Peetz from Griffith University.

R&CA notes that proposal to extended worker's compensation coverage to intern would be borne by employers. Although R&CA is opposed to any increased costs borne by employers, we are reassured by modelling which shows no impact on business premiums.

R&CA is also pleased to see that cost of providing psychologically injured workers with services prior to claim determination would not be considered in an employer's experience based rating premium calculation for rejected claims.

Amendments to the Further Education and Training Act 2014

R&CA notes that the amendments are minor in nature and introduce further flexibility into the process when a dispute does occur between a trainee or apprentice and an employer. The changes also provide the department with greater powers to enforce standards on both parties. R&CA has no objection to these proposed changes.

Conclusion

R&CA thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. If you wish to discuss R&CA's submission further, do not hesitate to contact Tom Green, Manager – Policy and Government at R&CA.

R&CA again thanks you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes Lambert', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD
Chief Executive Officer
Restaurant and Catering Australia