

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOSPITALITY SECTOR TO BENEFIT FROM INCENTIVES TO ENGAGE MORE ADULT APPRENTICES

The hospitality sector will directly benefit from the Federal Government's move to extend the Adult Australian Apprenticeships payment, Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) CEO Carol Giuseppi said today.

TAA, Australia's peak tourism accommodation body, welcomed today's announcement - which will see employers incentivized to take on an apprentice between the ages of 21 and 24.

Tourism Accommodation Australia CEO Carol Giuseppi said the Association had advocated strongly to attract more adult apprentices into the hospitality sector.

"With the growth in new hotel development, the industry is crying out for more skilled workers across a range of areas particularly cooks and chefs," she said.

"There's no doubt older apprentices generally have greater skills and experience in the labour market – and are more likely to be undertaking training at a higher level than their younger counterparts. However, there has been a decline in employment of adult apprentices as a result of Fair Work's decision on differential wage payments for apprentices.

"Industry has been active in reinforcing the need for the Federal Government to remove disincentives to employ adult apprentices – and today's announcement goes some way towards doing that, and addressing some of the skilled labour issues in the tourism and accommodation sector."

Earlier today the Government announced that from 1 July 2019, eligibility for the Support for Adult Australian Apprenticeships (SAAA) payment will be extended to employers who take on an eligible apprentice aged 21-24 studying a certificate III or IV qualification in areas of skills needs.

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