

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAA BOARD MEETS WITH NEW HEAD OF TOURISM AUSTRALIA

Skills shortages, energy efficiency measures and short-term letting regulations were all on the agenda when the national board of Tourism Accommodation Australia met in Sydney today.

TAA CEO Michael Johnson said the meeting followed a special dinner at the Sydney Harbour Marriott last night, when the national board met with the new managing director of Tourism Australia, Phillipa Harrison.

“It was great to be able to break bread with Phillipa, congratulate her on her new role and brief her on the issues of concern to our members,” Mr Johnson said.

“It’s obviously a busy time for Tourism Australia with this week’s launch of the ‘Philausophy’ campaign and we appreciate her taking the time.”

Mr Johnson said the focus of today’s TAA National Board meeting was building on the successes of the past year, and pushing harder on issues of concern to members.

“Of particular concern was the on-going skills shortage – especially the need for qualified chefs,” he said.

“Several board members raised this issue, with one describing the situation in some areas as ‘diabolical’.

“TAA will be fighting hard in coming months at the Federal level on this front - especially with thousands more hotel rooms to come online in cities including Sydney and Melbourne in the coming year - which will only make the situation more acute.”

He said other issues raised at the meeting included short-term letting.

“We are finally seeing some movement on the regulatory front in states like Tasmania and Western Australia after concerted lobbying by TAA,” Mr Johnson said.

“At the national level the ATO has also made a move. We will continue to fight for a level playing field when it comes to ‘quasi hotels’ springing up in our cities without any regulation.”

It has been a busy few days for the TAA National CEO who has also met separately with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres.

***Pics attached of last night’s dinner / the meeting with the deputy PM**

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