



MEDIA RELEASE

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TOURISM ACCOMMODATION AUSTRALIA, AHA AND UNITED WORKERS UNION WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE JOBS

The national peak accommodation body - Tourism Accommodation Australia - has worked with the Australian Hotels Association and the United Workers Union (UWU) to successfully vary the Hospitality Industry General Award (HIGA) - helping to save jobs throughout the accommodation sector.

Yesterday afternoon, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) considered and approved an application made by the AHA and TAA - with the consent of the UWU - to urgently vary the HIGA in response to the unprecedented circumstances unfolding in response to COVID-19.

TAA National CEO Michael Johnson said the decision was a “victory for common sense.”

“This is an example, once again, of TAA and AHA leading the way - with the support of the UWU - when other accommodation bodies failed to act,” Mr Johnson said.

“TAA and AHA have been pro-actively fighting for staff and the right for businesses to stay open when at the same time others in the sector focused on trying to shut our industry down.

“TAA and AHA have worked to keep as many people as possible in jobs during this unprecedented crisis.”

The following variations were approved by the FWC yesterday:

- After consulting with the relevant employee, employers can now direct full-time employees to work between 5 days and 3 days or 60 per cent of their guaranteed hours per week.
- Employees can perform duties within their skill level regardless of their classification, provided that their duties are safe.
- An employer may direct an employee to take annual leave upon 24 hours' notice.
- An employer and employee may agree to the taking of twice as much annual leave at half the rate of pay.

“This variation provides as much flexibility to employers as possible while also ensuring employees are protected,” Mr Johnson said.

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