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ALP SKILLS AND TRAINING BOOST FOR HOSPITALITY/ACCOMMODATION SECTORS

News an incoming Albanese Government would invest \$10m over two years in training and skills development for the struggling hospitality and accommodation sectors has been strongly welcomed by peak industry groups.

The funding is part of a \$48million tourism and travel package announced by Labor today.

The Accommodation Association, Australian Hotels Association and Tourism Accommodation Australia have been calling for additional funding for a much-needed boost for training - including for mature workers.

Accommodation Association (and incoming Accommodation Australia) President Leanne Harwood said today's announcement was well timed, with domestic travel picking up and international travellers returning to our shores.

"As one of the safest and most exciting destinations in the world, it is vital our accommodation and hospitality workforce has the necessary skills and training to provide wonderful customer service and experiences," Ms Harwood said.

"The statistics speak for themselves - we need to attract, educate and re-train 100,000 staff into hospitality after more than 40 per cent of our workforce was lost nationally during COVID.

"This funding will help us work with all training organisations to bring staff back into our resilient sector and help us build for a brighter future."

Australian Hotels Association CEO Stephen Ferguson said the grant would be utilised by hospitality portal "The Hub" - a 'one stop shop' for hospitality / accommodation training and up-skilling.

"This funding would go a long way to assist with our goals of attracting mature-age Australians wanting to return to the workforce and share their skills and knowledge," Mr Ferguson said.

"At the same time it will help us educate school leavers on the exciting career options available in hospitality.

"Of course, it's equally important we retain talent already working in the sector.

"This funding will help our hardworking staff gain training to acquire new skills to support their professional growth and also assist people seeking to progress their careers within their organisations."

To access "The Hub" go to: <https://www.aoa.com.au/Careers/About-Careers>

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