



RCCIWA (Inc)

PO Box 6209, East Perth WA 6892

• Fax: 08 9365 7550
Email: ceo@regionalchamberswa.com.au

1st September 2016

RE: Working Holiday Tax Review

The Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of WA (RCCIWA) is a member-driven not for profit organisation that has 44 regional chambers of commerce or business associations as members, who in-turn represent over 10,000 regional businesses. We are a united voice for regional businesses in Western Australia.

On behalf of our state wide regional membership we express our strong concern over the proposed tax for working holiday makers and strongly submit to this review panel that the introduction of the tax will:

- Reduce the incentive for travellers to choose regional Western Australia on their travel itinerary for any decent length of stay.
- Encourage travellers who plan to work as a part of their travel experience, to bypass Australia completely.
- Have a detrimental effect on the thousands of regional businesses that rely on backpackers for seasonal work and remote employment as well as filling those jobs that no one else will take.
- Reduce the exposure to globally connected travellers who broadcast their experience to the rest of the world, and completely remove the return travellers.
- Remove the starting point for many international travellers who eventually settle in regional Western Australia, based on their “backpacker” experience.

Many of our members in different sectors employ working holiday makers due to the seasonal nature of the work and the inability to attract anyone else to do the work. When speaking with the large number of our members who employ holiday makers, they all clearly stated that these are not jobs that locals are missing out on (or even want) they are additional jobs that only the holiday makers will fill.

The employment of backpackers are a mainstay for so many industries and service sectors in regional WA, including:

- Agriculture – harvest, seeding etc.
- Horticulture – picking, grading etc.
- Wine industry – picking, bottling
- Hospitality – Accommodation, restaurants, hotels
- Service Stations
- Tourism seasons – Ningaloo Reef, Broome, Kimberley etc.
- Tourism – specialist guides, diving instructors, etc.

Working holiday makers contribute to the cultural and recreational values of our regional communities and on some occasions find partners and establish families there, increasing the population and retention of services. Working holiday makers enjoy working with our members, contributing to the community and then travelling onto other regions of the state for holiday and work purposes, contributing greatly to the economic development of regional Western Australia. They become travelling ambassadors for Western Australia.

www.regionalchamberswa.com.au

The Voice of Regional Business in Western Australia



RCCIWA (Inc)

PO Box 6209, East Perth WA 6892

██████████ • Fax: 08 9365 7550
Email: ceo@regionalchamberswa.com.au

Our members strongly feel the introduction of a flat 32.5pc tax rate on working holiday makers will be detrimental to their businesses and make it even more difficult to attract and retain staff. Our members also feel it will affect the attractiveness of working holidays in Western Australia, and remove what is often an international travellers first of many visits to regional Western Australia.

Our members recognise that working holiday makers should be contributing to the costs of public infrastructure when they are here, but strongly request that full consideration is given to the potential impact of any decision. We also would support a review of how and when the holiday makers receive their superannuation payments, as this could reduce the chance of those moneys being taken with them on their travels and instead being returned back to our economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Kitty Prodonovich

CEO

ceo@regionalchamberswa.com.au

www.regionalchamberswa.com.au

The Voice of Regional Business in Western Australia