



## **AHA Position**

The significance of the hotel sector to tourism and hospitality should be recognised by Governments by actively seeking opportunities to consult with the industry on relevant policy decisions. This includes the appointment of AHA or TAA representatives to boards, committees and other advisory bodies directly impacting on hotels, including Tourism Australia, and more broadly dealing with:

- Industrial relations and superannuation.
  - Workforce development and overseas workers.
  - Alcohol regulation and relevant public health issues.
  - Gambling regulation.
  - Taxation.
  - Relevant small and medium business regulation such as workplace safety, food regulation, refrigeration etc.
  - Tourism and business events.
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## **Background**

The AHA is a strong and active representative of a significant industry and is in a position to provide expert insight and analysis of policy proposals and assist governments in implementing changes through education and communication. In 2012 the AHA participated in the following committees:

- Industrial Relations Business Consultative Committee
- Fair Work Australia Termination of Employment User Group
- Tourism 2020: Labor and Skills Working Group
- Tourism 2020: Tourism Access Working Group
- Seasonal Workers Advisory Group
- Tourism Directions Conference Steering Committee
- Ministerial Gambling Advisory Group
- AUSTRAC Gambling Consultative Forum
- Superannuation Employer Reform Working Group
- National Roundtable on People Trafficking
- FSANZ Food Allergens Collaboration
- National Measurements Institute Industry Committee
- Tourism Visa Advisory Group

## **Tourism Australia**

In previous years, AHA representatives have been appointed to the board of Tourism Australia (and its predecessor the Australian Tourist Commission) and it remains important for the industry to be actively engaged at the most senior levels of TA.

## **Representation**

The AHA is the organisation best placed to represent the views and interests of the hospitality and accommodation industry, the largest sector of the Australian tourism, to Government and should be invited to attend major public consultative events such as the recent Jobs Forum and the Tax Summit.

## **Health Bureaucracy Consultation**

Traditional government policy has seen health agencies proactively consult with relevant industry groups when developing preventative or reactionary intervention strategies. The hospitality and accommodation industry is likely to be significantly impacted by proposals to restrict the sale of alcohol, to cause its price to increase or to restrict its promotion. Recent years have seen a concerning decline in industry engagement in policy development by the Department of Health & Ageing and Government-funded health agencies, in particular the Australian National Preventative Health Agency (ANPHA).