



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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To the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport,

RE: INQUIRY INTO ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) and Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis by the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport.

The AHA and TAA are the peak industry bodies representing Australia's tourism, hotel accommodation and hospitality industry. Our membership is diverse and serviced by a network of branches based in every state and territory, plus a Canberra-based National Office. We represent licensed businesses from small bars, restaurants, taverns, pub-style hotels through to three, four and five-star international accommodation hotels located in each state and territory.

Our role is to represent the best business and commercial interests of our members through services, advocacy, and policies. We are committed to ensuring the future development and growth of the sector within Australia's vibrant tourism industry.

INQUIRY INTO ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

Our members are committed to providing the highest standards in food and beverage service, including in the areas of food preparation and safety around allergen awareness. The AHA is a member of the National Allergy Strategy roundtable and works with this body to collaborate on a holistic approach to allergen awareness in Australia.

We seek to ensure any implementation of allergen awareness training or similar initiative is done with close involvement of industry, including direct consultation with food service providers to ensure there is full understanding of food service operations and their existing practices. We recommend if mandatory upskilling is required there be a waiving of fees for relevant courses for employers and employees and a lengthy transition period for adjustment.

Another area of importance is ensuring that requisite public awareness campaigns are undertaken so that consumers are aware of their responsibilities in clearly declaring allergens to food service providers.

AHA and TAA look forward to the committee considering the recommendations presented in this submission and welcome further consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Ferguson'.

Stephen Ferguson
CEO
Australian Hotels Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson'.

Michael Johnson
CEO
Tourism Accommodation Australia