



MEDIA RELEASE

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FEDERAL BUDGET PASSES THE 'PUB TEST'

The crippled hospitality sector has welcomed tonight's Federal Budget focus on jobs, with Australian Hotels Association CEO Stephen Ferguson saying measures like the direct wage subsidy scheme, JobMaker Hiring Credit and instant asset write-off would have an 'immediate boost'.

Mr Ferguson said the hospitality, tourism and accommodation sectors were amongst the worst hit by the pandemic, with lengthy shutdowns impacting more than 900,000 workers across the whole sector.

"Our struggling hotels are ready, willing and able to employ staff," he said.

"They have COVIDSafe plans in place and take their health obligations extremely seriously - we welcome the emphasis on jobs in tonight's Budget and look forward to playing our role in getting more Australians safely back to work.

"One great thing about jobs in our hard-hit sector is they can be created 'instantly' through demand - you don't need to wait for a shovel to hit the ground.

"This budget is crucial as it helps steer us out of the crisis. But the Federal Government can't do it all. It's a balancing act and the States and Territories need to ensure they have the appropriate safe trading schemes in place to allow us to do what we do best - create jobs and serve our customers in a safe environment."

Mr Ferguson welcomed several aspects of tonight's Budget, including the instant asset write-off.

"This will be particularly important in 2021 and 2022 as our hard-hit hoteliers' get back on their feet and start to re-invest," he said.

"The new apprentice incentive scheme will also enable employers to take on willing Australians and start them on a rewarding career path in necessary trades such as chefs and hotel managers.

"The JobMaker Hiring Credit and direct wage subsidy schemes will also be massive boosts to a sector which has kept accruing mountains of debt during this crisis.

"The AHA congratulates the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and the Morrison Government on this Budget."

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