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BREAKTHROUGH ON CASUALS

Changes by the Federal Government to its industrial relations Closing the Loopholes Bill will ensure certainty for casual workers who want to remain exactly that – casual workers, the nation’s peak hospitality body said today.

National CEO of the Australian Hotels Association Stephen Ferguson said the commitment he had received from Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Tony Burke to amend the Bill was “good news for both casuals and employers alike.”

“The simple fact is many hospitality workers do actually prefer casual employment, given the 25% wage loading and the flexibility to refuse shifts,” Mr Ferguson said.

“Our concern with the original Bill was that employers would no longer be able to provide systemic regular casual employment to those workers who were happy with it.

“The amendments which have been committed to provide much more certainty and fairness for workers and employers and can be chalked up as a win for both.”

“They strike the right balance - and we thank Minister Burke for taking the time to listen to our concerns and taking actions to address them.”

Mr Ferguson also welcomed a commitment by the Government to remove the civil penalty provision relating to misrepresentation of casual employment in the Bill.

“Any mistakes, disputes or questions will be able to be dealt with by the independent umpire, the Fair Work Commission,” he said.

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