

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[{View this email in your browser}](#)



POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATE

Issue #20, 2 May 2024

- AA Board meets in Adelaide
- Latest apprenticeship data continues to show decline
- Inflation still not under control
- Farewell and thanks to WA tourism leader Carolyn Turnbull
- Bonza into administration
- Occupancy holds up in March

AA Board meets in Adelaide

The AA Board met this week in Adelaide under the leadership of the new national chair, David Mansfield. From a policy perspective, the Board further enhanced our advocacy position on short term rental accommodation by including strong enforcement mechanisms in our policy recommendations to government. This was based on international experience that regulation is only effective if there are rigorous compliance checks including public visibility of the register of STRA properties and sufficient resources at state and local government level to enforce the rules. Compliance by STRA platforms is critically important. The Board also received updates on other key policy issues such as apprenticeships, migration and the draft core skills list, as well as a progress report on the roll out of the careers, jobs and training platform being managed by AA under a grant from Austrade.

Latest apprenticeship data continues to show decline

Last week the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) published their most recent apprenticeship data for September quarter 2023 which showed a continuation of the concerning decline in the number of apprentices and trainees in our industry and across the economy. As shown in the table below, the number in training across all industries fell by 9.8% from 405,290 to 265,420. This compares with a much more dramatic fall in our key occupations of 24.1%, with almost a 30% drop in the number of Hospitality Certificate III trainees in training. The Certificate I&II trainees showing in the table are likely to be mostly school based apprentices, particularly as there are no employer incentives to take on trainees at these levels. Trade Waiters are bucking the trend with a steady increase, albeit with a relatively low number overall of 170 as at September 2023. The key food trade apprenticeships that delivers cooks and chefs is down by 8% in terms of those in training as at September 2023, and of an even greater concern the 2,760 cooking commencements in the September 2023 quarter were 27% less than in the September 2022 quarter. Hospitality worker traineeship commencements have fallen even further over the same period, with a 51% drop to only 6735 commencements in September quarter compared to the previous corresponding period.

AA will be finalising a submission this month on apprenticeship incentives seeking policies that will reverse this downward slide. I thank all members who participated in the three recent on-line consultation sessions on apprenticeships and the draft core skills list.

NCVER Apprentices and Trainees in training as at September 2019 to 2023						
Occupation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 v 2022
Hospitality Managers	35	50	185	315	145	-54.0
Pastry Cook	100	120	185	230	205	-10.9
Chef (Certificate IV)	240	260	390	495	260	-47.5
Cooks (Certificate III)	7445	6205	7255	7280	6665	-8.4
Kitchenhands	150	195	260	335	235	-29.9
Hospitality workers (Cert I)	105	95	80	95	105	10.5
Hospitality workers (Cert II)	525	460	585	805	675	-16.1
Hospitality workers (Cert III)	6705	6100	10,015	12,410	8695	-29.9
Hotel Service Managers	725	595	1240	1940	1090	-43.8
Waiters	80	55	95	145	170	17.2
All hospitality apprentices and trainees	16110	14135	20290	24050	18245	-24.1
All industries apprentices and trainees	274,530	263,135	352,175	405,290	365,420	-9.8

Inflation still not under control

Last week the ABS released the latest Consumer Price Index for the March 2024 which came in above inflationary expectations at 1% for the quarter and 3.6% for the year to March. The most significant price rises for the quarter were Rents (+2.1%), Secondary education (+6.1%), Tertiary education (+6.5%) and Medical and hospital services (+2.3%). Rises in alcohol and tobacco were above the CPI annual rise, with a price increase of 6.3%. The AHA has been strongly seeking a freeze on beer and spirit excise indexation as it builds in automatic price increases and fuels inflation. The CPI result makes it less likely that members will see interest rate relief on business and home loans which even further exacerbates business costs.

Farewell and thanks to WA tourism leader Carolyn Turnbull

The Australian Hotels Association WA (AHA WA) acknowledges the departure of Carolyn Turnbull, Managing Director of Tourism WA, and extends sincere appreciation for her significant contributions to Western Australia's tourism and hospitality industry. AHA(WA) CEO Bradley Woods said Carolyn's departure from Tourism WA after two and a half years of dedicated service marks the end of an era. Brad Woods said "Throughout her tenure, Carolyn has played a crucial role in guiding Western Australia's tourism and hospitality industry, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership has been instrumental in facilitating a strong recovery for the state. Under Carolyn's leadership, Tourism WA achieved remarkable milestones, including the launch of the state's new global tourism brand, Walking on a Dream."

Bonza into administration

This week has seen the disappointing news that relatively new airline Bonza has gone into administration. This development is yet another example of airlines that have failed to sustain a foothold in the Australia domestic market. Unfortunately, the low-cost airline has told customers they are unable to process refunds to thousands of customers after it went into voluntary administration. Frustrated travellers - many who were stranded at airports - were forced to find alternative flights or other ways to get to their destination, and it is estimated that over 33,000 passengers were affected. This news will particularly hurt regional tourism, as Bonza focused on servicing routes that other major airlines no longer serviced. Transport Minister Catherine King expressed to the media that she was not optimistic of Bonza returning to the skies. Shadow Minister for Trade and Tourism Kevin Hogan said the Government should be doing everything it can to ensure Australia can maintain a competitive aviation sector. "Competition in our aviation sector is vital for our tourism industry - particularly our regional tourism industry - and the broader Australian economy. Currently the balance of our aviation market is not right with Qantas and Virgin maintaining around 93% market share of the sector. "

Occupancy holds up in March

According to the latest STR data, occupancy rates and the average daily rate (ADR) held up in March 2024 compared to March 2023 with average occupancy 73.4% compared with 72.7% the previous March, with these rates comparable to the stronger than average February. ADR for March 2024 across Australia was \$248.09 compared with \$236.38. For the nine months to March 2024, the average Australian occupancy rate was 71.4% compared with 69.2% in the corresponding period in 2023, and the rise in the ADR over this period was eight dollars to \$251.90. Adelaide, Perth, Sydney and Hobart all experienced occupancy rates above 80% for March 2024, although Perth was lower than the previous March. Darwin is still struggling with its air access issues with an average rate of only 44.1% compared with 48.0% in March 2023. As an interesting comparison, occupancy rates in New Zealand fell when comparing March 2024 at 77.1% with the previous year (78%), although it is well noted that the overall rate is higher than the Australian average for both the month of March and the year to date.

Drop me an email at policy@accommodationaustralia.org or give me a call on 0418 277 919 if you have any national policy issue that you think AA should be following up. If you know an AA member who is not receiving this advocacy report but wants to, then encourage them to email me and we can add them to the distribution list.

Kind Regards

Jenny Lambert OAM
National Policy & Research Advisor
Accommodation Australia



Accommodation Australia | Level 12 Culwulla Chambers, 67 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW
2000 Australia

[Unsubscribe mail@accommodationaustralia.org](mailto:mail@accommodationaustralia.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by policy@accommodationaustralia.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!