

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 3:50:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Negative stories of farmers holding passports and essentially holding visa holders to ransom as slaves are widespread and portray a negative image of our nation overseas. Social media have spread this message globally already. The working arrangements need to be regulated better.

There is no point in taxing backpackers as all of the money they make is spent in Australia, so they will spend more money in regional businesses if the tax rate is lower. I was a working holiday maker in my 20's and spent all of my money in the small town I lived in.

**Name**

Dimitri Roumpos

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 4:31:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Bute Street PTY LTD

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Dear Review Board,

Thank you for opening up this review.

It would be great to have a chat about the backpacker tax moving forward.

Earlier in the year Working Holiday Jobs Australia ( our online job community) created a backpacker tax survey with over 5,000 responses.

Backpacker tax survey: <http://www.workingholidayjobs.com.au/working-holiday-visa-tax-survey/>

Survey Results: <http://www.workingholidayjobs.com.au/backpacker-tax-survey-results/>

Backpacker Tax Comments:

[https://docs.google.com/a/roumpos.com/spreadsheets/d/1IWX3Km5coF8HhJmBv7h-6bVctiLCVbnlew0EX9B\\_Z2Q/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/roumpos.com/spreadsheets/d/1IWX3Km5coF8HhJmBv7h-6bVctiLCVbnlew0EX9B_Z2Q/edit?usp=sharing)

The comments included messages to the minister. Please read through these. We also manage Fruit Picking Jobs Australia ( [www.fruitpickingjobs.com.au](http://www.fruitpickingjobs.com.au)) we can assist in reaching out to more working holiday makers.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. We are hear to support the Australian government in making an educated decision.

Best Regards,

Dimitri Roumpos

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Name**

Eileen Devereux

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 5:08:29 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Taxback Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached a letter prepared in March 2015 detailing the average income generation Taxback.com see for 16,099 Working Holiday Maker tax returns for the financial year 2015. This letter also details the Net Tax Contribution we see for this group of Working Holiday Makers.

We have just finalized a review of what trends we see for the 2016 financial year up to the end of July for 8,378 and below are the updated findings:

2016 TY

Average Gross Earnings:	\$15,088.01
Average Income Tax Withheld:	\$2,778.30
Average Post Tax Return Contribution:	\$779.54
Average Tax on Departing Superannuation Claims*:	\$544.68
Total Contribution	\$1,324.22

Taxback.com are committed to supporting this review in any way we can, should there be any additional profiling or information that would support this review we would be delighted to cooperate with the review and supply same.

I am also available to discuss the attached and above at your convenience on [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

Eileen Devereux

Commercial Director Taxback.com

**Name**

galen smith

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:04:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This country is so expensive to live in, let alone travel, how anyone could spend months here not working is beyond me. And to be taxed at such and extortionist amount would be disheartening.

Foreign inspiration to the community should be encouraged.

I know it is a tricky matter to negotiate.

My 2 bob.

Thanks

**Name**

Ashley Santala

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 6:45:56 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

CANADA

**Written Submission**

As a former Working Holiday Maker who completed her 88 days, I feel that the proposed backpacker tax is extortionate and unfair. The work completed in regional Australia, work that Australians often are not willing to perform, is not easy. For those on their first Working Holiday Visa, these 88 days are not only an opportunity to experience and work in regional Australia, it is also an opportunity to save money to continue their travels in the country. How will it be possible to save money, and thus spend it in Australia, if you are taking over 30% of it away? I am also hoping to receive my second Working Holiday Visa, which if granted, I would love to have the opportunity to work on another farm. Again for the experience and also for the fact that it allows me to save money I can then use to see and experience more of Australia. If the tax is changed to the proposed 32.5%, I would most definitely not put myself through the hard work and labour involved in working on a farm, only to have a large portion of that money taken away. I wouldn't want to work anywhere in Australia for that matter as this proposed percentage is extreme. Cost of living is not cheap in Australia, so how will taxing us nearly double what an Australian resident is taxed, allow us to survive and enjoy our time while here? Isn't the point of this visa to work AND holiday? If we are working for only 67.5% of what the minimum wage is, how is that even enjoyable, let alone livable. This completely defeats the purpose of the visa and I feel it will have a very negative impact on the amount of travellers willing to work in regional Australia or in Australia at all.

**Name**

Aaron Robinson

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 6:50:04 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

As a former working holiday maker, I loved the rural work (amongst the town and city jobs I also worked in). I believe that as a traveller, I should be taxed equivalent as any local resident worker. In the event tax is almost doubled, I truly believe the amount of working holiday makers will decline drastically. Travellers instead would work in their own countries then travel Australia for a shorter period - if at all. Australia is 'expensive' in comparison to other countries and also a far flight away thus backpackers then would go elsewhere. A working holiday visa is to be enjoyed, to work, then travel around the country. Being taxed 32.5% is extortionate and unrealistic to the cost of living standards. I, as a current prospective working holiday maker will not be work nor travel to Australia if such tax raise is put in place.

**Name**

Michael Coates

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 6:51:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Taxing visa holders at a higher rate than Australians makes no sense and will just mean fewer will be prepared to do this vital work.

Plain dumb policy.

**Name**

Ben Ricketts

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 6:50:27 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

I am currently doing my regional work in western Australia and if the tax had been implemented I would have not worked and just travelled for a short time before leaving the country.



**Name**

Dave Graham

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 7:30:58 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have suggested that some amount of tax is appropriate Many countries have next to compulsory gratuities, which to an Australian is effectively a tax on being in that country (to that Australian), others impose direct taxes on employment as well.

I suggest a tax in the region of 5-10%, 5% preferred as optimum to see and record the dimensions of the activity and to collect a little of what Australian workers pay anyway. I assume that most fall below any tax threshold on an annual basis.

**Name**

Danielle Arthur

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 7:31:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

I am coming over to Australia on a working holiday visa with my boyfriend in November. Although our plan was to stay for as long as possible and complete the work required to gain a second year visa the tax has made us change our minds. The economy everywhere isn't booming like it was 10 years ago and we have our future to think of, buying a house etc. So our plan was to travel Australia whilst working and not touch too much of our savings, however after doing vast amounts of research into the jobs we can get and the wage we could expect to be on, with the tax it makes a large dent in our budgets and it just won't be feasible to continue living off a portion of our savings and the money we earn. If we want to stay as long as possible the compulsory work required for the second year visa just won't work. So we have now changed our plans and we will be visiting for 6 weeks and then making our way to South America/South East Asia where we can teach English and make our money stretch.

We don't need much and aren't expecting to earn a vast amount, we just wanted it for the experience and to try out a new way of life (the nice weather in another English speaking country) but we get taxed less in the UK so to come over to Australia and pick up less paying jobs and get taxed more as well as taking a hit because of the exchange rate, doesn't make sense to do for a long period of time, even if we were hoping to make a real go of it.

**Name**

YU JU CHUNG

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:18:11 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

no matter what kind of job, there's always some work that OZ doesn't want to do, so we can help.

**Name**

Paul Gardner-Stephen

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:20:41 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday visitors often come back to Australia later in life, based on their positive experiences of Australia when young. At that later life stage, they will likely spend much more. However, if their memory is that of being "shafted" by Australia (fairly or unfairly as the perception may be), they may be less likely to do so.

Working holiday visitors play a key role in ensuring affordable farm produce for all Australians, and aid in maintaining the profitability of rural enterprises.

Working holiday visitors undertake work that most Australian's don't want to do.

In short, they contribute in a variety of direct and indirect ways. We should not place barriers in front of them, or the rural enterprises and communities they support.

If you are going to tax them, make the tax only apply to work performed in cities, but tax-free in regions and remote areas. That way, the benefit to the country is maximised. Also, as we currently tax our remote Australians less, reflecting the reduced availability of services, the argument to tax the working holiday visitors in those regions is also greatly reduced.

**Name**

YING YING Chen

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:32:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It's fair go get the same tax rate as Australian, how come you make holiday worker work harder and enforce pay more tax?

**Name**

Bo sheng Hong

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:38:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If the tax policy is executed then there will be huge influence on The economic part of Australia .  
No backpackers no more taxes the government will get. Sincerely

**Name**

Lyn Hovey

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 8:40:04 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Over 30% tax is too much for backpacker workers. In my country town they do work that we can't find anyone else to do.

**Name**

Wei-An Chiang

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 9:28:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I am a Taiwanese international student that has been living in Australia for 5 years, and I have frequently hearing many different stories of how the working holiday visa holders getting unfairly treated by their employer(s) when they were working at remote area, mostly at workplace such as as farm, supermarket supply delivery and heavy physical load work.

Many of the employers at remote area might look legal on the surface but actually paying the working holiday visa workers with extremely low wage range between AU\$9 to AU\$15. The major issue working holiday visa holders faces are not having direct contact to the department that helps the working holiday visa holders. Plus, even if they have the English ability to do daily communication and chatting, they might have difficulty communicating and explain the issue they are facing when in contact with the supporting department.

About the tax plan for the working holiday visa workers, since they are constantly doing jobs that are illegally low paid, or jobs that are paid on the baseline. It would be unfair for them to paid high tax because the Australian government have to understand all these workers have to pay rent for their accommodation and food as well, there is even airplane ticket to fly to Australia and return ticket that cost large amount of money.

I strongly agree that none of the working holiday visa workers should take over jobs of the Australian citizen. However, it is also important to understand that many of these working holiday visa holders are young people that travel to Australia force to speak in their second language and stay in a place they are unfamiliar with. Therefore, it is important they need a bit more care and support from Australian government.

I as an international student, I constantly tell my friends who lives oversea that Australia is a great country, but then on 4th of May 2015, I saw the news "Slaving Away" on ABC 4 corners (link: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2015/05/04/4227055.htm>) explored into how Taiwanese and Hong Kong working visa workers are extremely unfairly treated, which makes me very shocking as well.

In the end, I still believe Australia is a successful democracy and multicultural country that is able to respect everyone no matter where they are from, how they look like and what language they speak. Hence, I look forward to see Australian government giving helps to the working holiday visa holders and not raising the tax and making their life in Australia even more difficult.

Thanks for taking time reading the text and my appologise if you think I miss out anything on this topic.



**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

Best regards,  
Wei-An Chiang

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 9:05:42 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I think the best solution is that government takes the 9.5% of superannuation contributed by the employer instead of taking tax from backpacker. As a backpacker, I don't think I need a superannuation account in Australia for me to use after I retire. But I need to pay significant management fee for that every month, this is stupid - anyway, I cannot get much back when I leave; so, why not directly pay the 9.5% to the government of the government really needs to get something from backpackers??

In addition, we, backpackers, don't enjoy much social benefits here, if I would have to pay 32.5% tax, I would definitely leave. Let's face the truth, who would do banana humping if you get only \$15 per hour after tax? Actually I spent all money I earned in the first half year in Australia for travel, I contributed to Australian GDP not only as a worker but as a traveller, this applies to majority of backpackers I know as well. If backpackers leave because of the tax, it would be unlikely that none of Australians would suffer.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 9:05:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Bluestone motor inn

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

My property in Tennant Creek is unable to get locals to work even though I continually advertise positions vacant.

We are always willing to train.

Whoever I therefore rely on the overseas workers.

Without these people I would be unable to continue to operate.

**Name**

Teresa Olszanka

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 9:52:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In my opinion the backpacker tax is absurd. Period. No one will benefit, including the Government while the regional Australia will be a big loser - not just the farmers, the accomodation providers, bars and cafes, to mention just these few. I seriously doubt the Goverment would even be able to extract enough money from the backpackers to cover the costs of planning, reviews and implemmentation of this tax let alone gaining any income.

**Name**

Yi-Tsz Wang

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 9:53:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Please don't agree the 32.5% tax!

**Name**

Law Tak Wai

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 10:09:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a backpacker, I strongly recommend that the government should cancel the levy for the backpacker. It is because the backpacker can enhance the economy of Australia and ensure the labour power in different factory. While we get the working holiday visa also need to pay plenty of money to get it. Then the Government can provide more type of work to the backpacker to enjoy their live in Australia.

**Name**

WEI-JIE ZHOU

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 10:52:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

it's very unfair for working holiday-makers if a 32.5 per cent income tax rate is enforced.  
if the government enforces this plan, a lot of industries which far from the city will be affected.  
nobody such as Australian wants to come rural to work.  
be smart

**Name**

Peter Wesley-Smith

**Date Lodged**

15 Aug 2016 11:26:33 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I do not employ working holiday-makers but I participate in WWOOF and HelpX programs. Since the working holiday-makers are not paid for their time at my property the question of tax for their time as wwoofers or HelpXers does not arise - but most worker participants in these programs need to move between paid and unpaid work, and the question of tax is very relevant to the supply of workers.

I live in Kangaroo Valley where most non-urban lots are a minimum size of 100 acres containing just one dwelling. This requirement, in a catchment area, is clearly a good one, but it creates problems where the block is not suitable for agriculture or horticulture. The principal one is: how can a single person or nuclear family maintain such a large area? It is impossible, but with the assistance of wwoofers or HelpXers a realistic attempt can be made. Without such assistance the land must deteriorate. And with a backpacker tax severely discouraging backpackers from even coming to this country, landowners like myself will find it very difficult to maintain rural properties. This process has already started. The issue is more critical to landowners who need casual and seasonal labour to maintain their livelihoods, but it is nevertheless a genuine concern for WWOOF and HelpX hosts like myself. The quality of rural landholdings is at stake.



**Name**

Lei Lei

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 12:27:13 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It's tragedy that 99% Chinese restaurants (at least operated by Chinese people) in whole Australia provide illegal work to the backpackers. Generally the payment is around ten dollars per hour. They give us cash in hand basically. It's so bad thing. Because of language, we are not easy to find a local job as well, especially for girls. So we have so limited job to choose. Please provide more legal work for WHV makers. Cheers?

**Name**

Sharnie Billingsley

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 1:22:26 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have met many australians who said I'm 'crazy' for doing my farm work as they never would. I haven't met one single Australian person that would leave where they live now to go and do farm work. Farmers need the backpackers! If the tax rises, working holidayers aren't going to want to work there as they don't earn enough as it is!

**Name**

Chou Hsin-hung

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 2:52:41 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

**Written Submission**

I think 32.5 percent income tax is so terrible . Maybe within 10 percent can better

Thank you

**Name**

Benjamin Fiebig

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 3:08:51 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

To point 7.

While being in Australia the past 2 years on a WHV, spending most of my time working, I never came along job offers which would have excluded Australians from applying for a position. I have always asked my employers why they choose me instead of citizens - most common answer: They aren't applying! Secondary answer: their work ethics (especially regarding unqualified, mostly easy but physical work) are that bad that they leave the company pretty soon or they have to be replaced after short time.

Also I spent a lot of my time here with Australians, many of them struggling to find jobs, but when I was talking about their struggles it always came to my attention that they are mostly very picky about jobs and also often not knowing about obvious ways to find a job (using Gumtree)

General opinion:

Since most of the backpackers who are coming to Australia are pretty young, they don't bring a lot of money from their countries to spend it here. Most of them coming here, earning money in Australia and spending it in Australia. But if tax increases too much, those backpackers who still decide to come here, will have to work here even longer, which means they "steal" even more jobs from Australians.

I don't see any obvious reason why backpackers should not get taxed. But a flat 32.5 percentage seems too high. As mentioned the average backpacker earnings are much lower than the tax free threshold for residents, it just seems to be a bit arbitrarily to get taxed that high for such a low income.

Why not going for a flat 19%? Or why not regulating it the same easy way as it is for residents, just with a lower free threshold?

**Name**

Jason Cook

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 7:53:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I don't know why we as employers have to pay superannuation to back packer and temporary resident? It's not our responsibility to look after other country people's retirements. I believe the only tax that should be paid by backpackers is a governance tax to help govern the backpacker industry to make sure that it is run correctly and the backpackers are looked after whilst this country. The superannuation that is paid to them could cover this governance.

**Name**

Jaimie McMahon

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:18:20 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working conditions for working holiday makers in all sectors is overall abusive. Working holiday makers are underpaid, overworked, and abused by employers as it is in Australia. Adding a tax to working holiday makers will do nothing but guarantee that your agriculture sectors will die and the number of working holiday makers will drop dramatically. The mere suggestion of this tax is ridiculous, why should people who receive no free benefits while in Australia and already contribute to your economy be taxed? You greedy bastards...

**Name**

Gerry Gillespie

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:19:46 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The cultural exchange occurring with seasonal workers from both within and external to Australia is invaluable in degrading the cultural ignorance of Australians generally.

In addition to this seasonal workers provide an invaluable service to our food industries and our farming families - by doing work which Australians will not do themselves.

Penalising seasonal workers income and therefore their visit with taxation, degrades both the experience and the future potential of future seasonal workers.

**Name**

Carolyn Rogers

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 9:12:28 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a young person while living in NZ I picked blueberries during holidays and learned a great deal about life and other cultures, it was an eye opener for me. I also travelled and lived in the UK as a working holiday maker and really appreciated those two years living and working in Great Britain. I took jobs that had been vacant for weeks so never felt like I was unwelcome, learned a lot about myself and grew up a lot in that time. I believe encouraging young people from other countries to travel and work in Australia brings benefits for both the farmers and the backpackers. As a nation we should encourage genuine working holiday makers to visit Australia for a period of up to two years and make it easy for them to visit, earn some dollars to fund their travelling, and help our farmers with finding seasonal workers. Certainly they should be able to cash out superannuation and tax paid less a reasonable Medicare levy upon their leaving.



**Name**

Donny Tilbury

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 9:15:24 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The questions above seem to relate only to those who come to Australia for work.

I am a WWOOF Host and a HelpX Host. The VOLUNTEERS who come to stay with me and others like me are NOT earning money. Rather they are here to experience Cultural Exchange and learn about organic farming and sustainability. They contribute rather than take from this country.

Many organic farmers can not survive without this volunteer assistance. To tax them on the value of their accommodation is just stupid, or worse: a deliberate attempt to kill off organic farming in favor of Corporate Food Production.

Given our high unemployment rate one would think the Government would make it easier for the unemployed to take on jobs instead of encouraging employers exploit overseas labour.

The OLD system of 2nd working holiday visa was sufficient in regard to Backpackers/Volunteers.

This government could be doing more about the exploitation of overseas labour by greed inspired Companies and leave volunteers and hosts to enjoy their experience.

**Name**

SUE MAZI

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 9:42:50 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We need working holiday makers on our farms. Yes, Australians can do this work, but for the Australians who I have put on my farm when the high season hits and we are working 7 days straight for 5 or 6 weeks the Australians seems to quit quicker than the backpackers. Also at the other end of our season when we only do three days a week and the wage is low due to lack of fruit, the Australians will quit quicker than the backpackers as they can make more on the dole! This is the reality of working in Australia today (and you can see the same trend in Europe, where the eastern Europeans work in agriculture and in the United States and Canada where Mexicans and central Americans and those from the Caribbean fill spots - however in those countries the minimum wage is far lower than here in Australia).

If the government want us to export into Asia and expand Australian agriculture we need to have access to a flexible labour force to stay competitive. And we also have to address the high labour charges that Australian farmers have to pay. The cost of food in this country does not reflect the high cost of labour it takes to provide it - someone is getting ripped off somewhere to be able to supply this commodity cheaply. I am assuming one day (if it is not happening already) the Chinese will be bringing in workers on a Tourist Visa, having them do 'voluntary' work with no remuneration and then being paid directly into their account in China or Korea or wherever.....and the government will turn a blind eye to this practice in the name of exporting Australian produce.

**Name**

COLIN FINK

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 10:57:21 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

BACKPACKERS WORKING ON WORKING VISA'S ALREADY PAY TAX BY SPENDING THERE MONEY EARNT ON TRAVEL, TOURS, SOCIALISING AND ACCOMADATION. THEY DO JOBS THAT ARE SEASONAL, MUNDANE AND HAVE NO CAREER ADVANCEMENT.

ALL THESE JOBS ARE SHORT TERM, IDEAL FOR PEOPLE WITH NO TIES, LIKE FAMILY, FRIENDS, LEASES ON ACCOMADATION ETC. AUSTRALIAN WORKERS HAVE TIES THAT MAKE IT HARD TO TRAVEL TO THESE SEASONAL JOBS AS THEY HAVE FAMILY, FREINDS, FURNITURE, LEASES ON ACCOMADATION AND WILL NOT TRAVEL AROUND DOING THESE SEASONAL JOBS.

BACKPACKERS SHOULD BE TAXED THE SAME AS AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS. THERE SUPPERANUATION COULD GO TO GOVERMENT INSTEAD OF BEEN MADE WORTHLESS BY SUPERFUND CHARGES?

**Name**

YUEH LIAO

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 10:05:11 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

**Written Submission**

I'll go AU for working holiday, but the news about 32.5 per cent let me hesitate whether I go to AU?

There are many country that we can go for working holiday ,but AU is the best choice now.

If the 32.5 per cent income tax rate is enforced. I will go another country because there are the same

condition.

**Name**

Kate Sutherland

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 9:56:11 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I couldn't upload this letter below so have cut and pasted it in:

16/8/2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Grower Opposition to Back-packer Tax

In the 2015 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced an effective increase in tax paid by Working Holiday Makers (backpackers) to 32.5 cents in every dollar from on 1 July 2016.

This change will potentially divert vital harvest labour away from the farm sector each year, encouraging backpackers to look to countries other than Australia for their working holiday experience.

A recent survey through the National Farmers Federation of 1434 people found that:

- 52% had decided not to stay working in Australia after 1 July 2016 because of the change; and
- 84% had heard of backpackers changing their plans about coming to Australia.

Like our industry body in Fruit Growers Tasmania, we as growers agree that like everyone else, backpackers, should pay their fair share of tax. However, 32.5 cents in every dollar is too high. It means many backpackers will choose to go elsewhere, or stay in Australia for shorter periods and some have already indicated this by booking flights to leave Australia before the tax is implemented.

It means fewer workers on Australian farms, less spending in rural communities especially in regional Tasmania, and more workers attracted to the cash economy.

The backpackers will always remain the surge capability of the agriculture sector and Government needs to be wary of introducing a tax which could have a detrimental impact in a number of ways.

We would not be confident if there is a detrimental impact that Government and the relevant Government departments could respond in a timely manner to enable harvest to progress.

As growers, we request the State's politicians to not support the proposed backpacker tax in Parliament at its current rate. It's a new tax, which will have serious consequences for rural and regional Australia which haven't been considered and a tax which will not benefit industry.

Should the Government wish to consider a different wage system for the back-packers, it is requested that the outcomes are advantageous to the sector especially around superannuation or a tax level of 19.5 cents is accepted.

We currently have over 200 people working at Burlington Berries including permanent staff. Of our seasonal workers 30% of them are backpackers, 30% part of the SPI scheme and 40% Australian residents.

This year we have struggled to secure staff and this has been the same for other berry growers in Tasmania. Linx Employment also stressed they have had a difficult year in finding and keeping staff. With 36,000 fewer to choose from and the increase in the seasonal labour requirements in Tasmania we strongly urge you to support us in objecting to the increase in tax rates as described above.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kate Sutherland

Managing Director

**Name**

Stewart Sutherland

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 10:02:34 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

16/8/2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Grower Opposition to Back-packer Tax

In the 2015 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced an effective increase in tax paid by Working Holiday Makers (backpackers) to 32.5 cents in every dollar from on 1 July 2016.

This change will potentially divert vital harvest labour away from the farm sector each year, encouraging backpackers to look to countries other than Australia for their working holiday experience.

A recent survey through the National Farmers Federation of 1434 people found that:

- 52% had decided not to stay working in Australia after 1 July 2016 because of the change; and
- 84% had heard of backpackers changing their plans about coming to Australia.

As growers agree that like everyone else, backpackers, should pay their fair share of tax. However, 32.5 cents in every dollar is too high. It means many backpackers will choose to go elsewhere, or stay in Australia for shorter periods and some have already indicated this by booking flights to leave Australia before the tax is implemented.

It means fewer workers on Australian farms, less spending in rural communities especially in regional Tasmania, and more workers attracted to the cash economy.

The backpackers will always remain the surge capability of the agriculture sector and Government needs to be wary of introducing a tax which could have a detrimental impact in a number of ways.

We would not be confident if there is a detrimental impact that Government and the relevant Government departments could respond in a timely manner to enable harvest to progress.

As growers, we request the State's politicians to not support the proposed backpacker tax in Parliament at its current rate. It's a new tax, which will have serious consequences for rural and regional Australia which haven't been considered and a tax which will not benefit industry.

Should the Government wish to consider a different wage system for the back-packers, it is requested that the outcomes are advantageous to the sector especially around superannuation or a tax level of 19.5 cents is accepted.

We currently have over 30 people working at Tooma Station including permanent staff. Of our seasonal workers 75% of them are backpackers.

This year we have struggled to secure staff and this has been the same for other seed growers in Australia. With 36,000 fewer to choose from and the increase in the seasonal labour requirements in Australia we strongly urge you to support us in objecting to the increase in tax rates as described above.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stewart Sutherland

Managing Director



**Name**

Prof Phillip Hamilton

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 11:09:10 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The net economic effect of allowing holiday-makers to work, especially performing tasks which Australian permanent residents are unable or unwilling to perform, is strongly positive for both the locales in which the work is performed and for the Australian economy, because the holiday-makers are thereby enabled to spend more dollars in the country, especially in the places where they are able to work. Many such workers will not return to Australia, so they should not be placed in a more unfavourable position than Australian residents, who can recoup their tax paid by submitting tax returns, and can rely on their superannuation in the future. It would be unjust to force these holiday-makers to pay the superannuation contribution and then to forbid them to get access to it ever again. The reality is that they should not be obliged to pay the super levy at all. It only entails needless administrative cost to the Australian Tax Office.

**Name**

Yi-hsuan Lin

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 11:24:16 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

**Written Submission**

In my opinion, everyone in this country should pay the tax for using public facilities so does the working holiday-worker.

The point is how much is appropriate !

32.5%?That's tooooooooooo much undoubtedly ! !

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 11:00:20 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Working Holiday Makers play an important part for industry and particularly for employers in regional areas. After 12 plus years in the migration industry, a recurring theme from clients is that it is increasingly difficult to source local workers for certain industries and occupations, particularly where additional regional issues arise (population, transport/access issues etc). Employers also find that younger locals do not want to take on work which they feel they are over qualified for. I agree that Working Holiday Makers should pay tax in Australia equivalent to any other worker however removing the tax free threshold will be a huge deterrant and the negative impacts on agriculture and regional employers would potentially far outweigh the financial benefits to be gained.

**Name**

Jenny Krenske

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 11:44:49 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

G & J Krenske

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Most holiday makers when they come to AU have no farm experience. Stopping the WWOOF programme when they were able to get basic farm training before going onto paid work was a mistake. Farmers do not want to pay an inexperienced workers full pay when these people have never set foot out side a city.

**Name**

Robyn Chalmers

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 12:02:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our farmers need all the help they can get. I would like to think that Australian Farmers can survive into the future and if the back-packers are taxed, the farmers will go out of business. Yes, there are some really wealthy farmers, but most just struggle. HELP THEM. Governments are voted in to help and support our communities. So help and listen to communities.

**Name**

Nai Jhih Huang

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 1:09:00 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Thanks for the survey and hope that can help government make policies which concern about this better:

1.If government want to check any kind of employer,they will find out some of employers still provide illegal or unfair condition jobs to

backpacker

2.Some of farming or factory jobs are hold by some supervisor which only give part of salary to their workers(like [REDACTED], the Hong Kong supervisor and agency they only give you 13\$ /hr when I was work there ,no super no tax,its really suck,if you don't cooperated with them,you will get dayoff or even kicked out without notice)

3.major city in each state still have unfair condition jobs about Restaurant,waiting staff,kitchen hand or take away all rounder,not only focus on Asian employer but lots of complain from them,some of asian backpackers thinking they can'y speak english well and work there,eventhough worked under unfair condition situation,they dont know how to help themselves(I have complain my employer to Fairwork about illegal wage,when I ask the other worker they all ask how to complain,actually before hired to work the employer didn't told us about the right of employee)

4.I trust the Australian have the right to work before backpackers,but when you talked with local,they will told you now the young people(I mean Australian or citizen)they have no will to work especially agriculture,but the labor about this still needed a lot,maybe the government should have more policy to push your young generation to work there,they are your future.

5.In my opinion,rising the tax rate of backpacker definitely not an good idea,when less of backpacker come to work,and local young people have no will to work,you will get more trouble.

Nai Jhih Huang

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Name**

David Palmer

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 1:19:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

BiG Volcano Tourism Marketing and Media

**Country**

**Written Submission**

For the past twenty years we have provided a regional tourism website [www.bigvolcano.com.au](http://www.bigvolcano.com.au) which promotes tourism in Australia generally and in the Northern Rivers of NSW and Gold Coast of QLD in particular. Since the introduction of the "backpackers tax" we have had much anecdotal evidence that backpackers are much less likely to choose Australia as a destination if they plan ANY paid employment whilst traveling.

We also rely on services such as [www.helpx.net](http://www.helpx.net) and [www.workaway.info](http://www.workaway.info) to engage backpackers as UNPAID workers (in exchange for free accommodation) on our rural residential property. Since the "backpackers tax" was first mooted, the applicants wanting to stay with us have fallen by more than 75%!

From information provided by our helpxers we know that backpackers earn VERY LOW wages in Australia. They are routinely EXPLOITED by employers and labour hire companies. They absolutely should NOT be required to pay any income tax or make any superannuation contributions on their earnings here.

If they do pay income tax and super, then they should also be fully entitled to Medicare benefits, unemployment benefits and ALL other benefits which taxpayers are entitled to. Such a scheme seems to us cumbersome and COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. Any "backpackers tax" in our humble opinion is a VERY stupid idea. We suggest you sack the idiots who countenanced it. Oh.. that was you!?!? Then resign!

**Name**

Helix HA

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 2:48:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday-makers are paying tax same as the other resident now, but they haven't got citizen right, including medical and education, there are very expensive. I think they should keep going pay the same tax rate as the other resident, but no additional backpacker tax.

Working holiday-makers are always need to do illegal jobs, if backpacker tax is implemented, the working market will get worsen, and it will harm the Australia worker and the legal company.

Working holiday-makers can preview economical benefit to traveling industry, if if backpacker tax is implemented, most of the backpacker will not coming to Australia.



**Name**

Kim Linquist

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 2:08:28 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The agricultural sector is already burdened with irregular weather and random government actions. Wages are an enormous part of the costs of agricultural production, and incentives need to be kept high, while wages are kept low. I have not seen any statistics on how much of their 'aussie income' backpackers spend in Australia but it is likely to be high, and the government gets a big enough share of that already. The tax threshold should be applied to the temporary workers.

**Name**

Eddie Chow

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 1:56:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

HONG KONG

**Written Submission**

If the government really going to raise the tax rate on the backpackers, it will force them to engage with the cash-in-hand jobs and ultimately harmful to the economy.

**Name**

Anniina Räisänen

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 2:30:17 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There are still lots of problems when it comes to fair work conditions for backpackers. Lots of farmers are still trying to take advantage of them by not paying enough etc.

I also find 32.5% very harsh considering the fact that most backpackers work for the minimum wage and use a lot of money while here. And lots of them don't even collect their taxes back when they leave the country.

**Name**

Victoria English

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 2:58:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Showcall Crewing Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The music industry is extremely seasonal with the need to expand our work force by sometimes 100s for only 3-6 hours work every couple of weeks during summer. No Australian is missing out on work under these circumstance. Unemployed or underemployed people in Australia are not waiting around for weeks just to pick up a weeks work spread out over three months. This kind of work is unpredictable, last minute and is usually during people's social times. There is no roster or routine to the industry and no way to predict work flow. International students are great but are only allowed to work 20 hours a week and then move to either undesirable labour hire firms who exploit them or cash jobs. The more tax they have to pay the more they will move to the cash society of cafe and bar work or not come to Australia. Most holiday visa tourist actually spend what they make in Australia. We rely on holiday tourist visa employees to fill the last minute on call needs of our industry. What you need to do is crack down on the shonky labour hire firms that get big contracts and outsource to offshore companies and cheat the system. My company is ethical and offers equal pay and equal conditions to all employees. We only source locally through our own website once people have arrived and only during the on demand high traffic times in peak season.

**Name**

Cecily Brand

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 4:05:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

The tax, on top of the recent change of regulations for WOOFING, will definitely deter working holiday makers. Not only will this impact on the tourism industry but also on the farmers. The farmers are already impacted by not being able to offer food and accommodation in return for work which is eligible for the second year visa. I'm sad for the farmers who will struggle and also for the future 417 visa people who won't get to have the same experience as me. I did my second year visa work in a very remote farm, WOOFING. Something I would never have done if it didn't go towards my second year. The farmer relied on people doing this to get by. And I had a fantastic experience. I also will not be interested in staying in Australia any longer if this tax is brought in. We pay enough for our visas and have spent a fortune into the tourism industry. I know that people will look into different alternatives for a working holiday if this goes through.

**Name**

Jiun Sin Wang

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 3:26:32 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Hi I'm Vettel. I came to AU about seven months, I chat with some Aussie. They agree about WHV holder to contribute Australia, especially Basic industry, farm, because no Aussie want to do the jobs, it's too hard and low income, and some Aussie don't know why gov try to increase WHV tax, that will reduce willingness to come to Australia. My some friends are afraid of high tax, let them hesitate to come to Australia.

**Name**

Phillip English

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 3:20:08 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The fact that my Industry is unpredictable with huge highs and lows regards employment. The Music industry has not set roster or equal work load over a calendar year. We have to triple our work force some years to accommodate large events,concerts and productions in Sydney. Our Company adversities all year and we get minimal response in the busy season from resident Australians. We employ all workers under a federal award,they are all covered by our public liability and workers comp. I feel that the Government should take a hard look at Labour Hire firms that use shonky tactics to abuse backpackers and international students on visa's.

**Name**

Gemma Edwards

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 2:07:01 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Southern Forests Food Council Inc.

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The Southern Forests Food Council Inc. (SFFC) was established in 2012 by local growers for local growers, to promote Southern Forests produce and producers. The SFFC is a member-based organisation with over 300 members, of which 200 are producer members spanning horticulture, agriculture, aquaculture, viticulture and agri-tourism.

The implementation of a tax rate of 32.5 per cent for non-resident 417 and 462 visa holders, known as the 'backpacker tax', will have a detrimental effect on SFFC members, the Southern Forests industries and the wider community.

The Southern Forests region is located 300km south of Perth in the beautiful south-west corner of Western Australia and includes the four main towns of Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe and Walpole. Agriculture is one of the major industries in the Southern Forests with 25% of the population involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The Southern Forests produces over 50 different types of fruits and vegetables, truffles and boutique produce, dairy, sheep and cattle farms, as well as award-winning wineries and exceptional culinary experiences. The Southern Forests represents 20% of total agricultural value in Western Australia's greater South West, which equates to a gross agricultural value of \$127M pa.

The region relies heavily on foreign workers across agricultural and tourism industries and the proposed tax rate will act as a deterrent for backpackers seeking to work in the Australia, and on a local scale, the Southern Forests. The proposed tax will ultimately effect Australia's international competitiveness for backpackers.

Backpackers are a vital element in the Southern Forests region and essential to both tourism and agricultural industries. Without Backpackers there isn't enough local labour to harvest produce in the timeframe required to ensure produce meets the required quality standards. The crop losses due to a labour shortage would have a disastrous effect on the local and state economy. The SFFC do not support a tax rate of 32.5 per cent for non-resident 417 and 462 visa holders and encourage the Australian Government to revise the tax rate, ensuring that rather than hinders, it grows the value of agriculture in regional communities, like the Southern Forests.



**Name**

Taylor Haywood

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 5:22:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers should have the opportunity to be sponsored on farms as part of a skilled workforce. If Australians are unwilling to do the work that backpackers do then it should be optional to stay to do this

**Name**

Harry Crane

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 5:20:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have worked planting trees for 3 months and the Europeans are significantly better workers than the Aussies

**Name**

Judy Shepherd

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 6:11:33 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Shepherd Citrus Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I employ a significant number of backpacker workers every year. They're paid well, looked after and I have a steady number who either return for a second time or refer my business in to others as a good employer, so I am proud of my reputation. With the threat of the implementation of the 32.5 tax and no threshold (even for workers who met the requirements as a resident for tax purposes) we experienced a significant decline in those workers who intended to work past 30/6 - this changed immediately when the implementation was delayed, all workers expressing their relief and one young woman actually bursting into tears when she heard as she had only recently made the investment to come to Australia for a working holiday.

All my workers advised that it simply would not be worth their while to come to Australia to work - particularly in the prescribed areas that are needed to obtain a second year if there was a decline in their take-home pay as Australia is simply too expensive to live in and the work is sporadic and only allows them in most cases to continue with their travels. They work hard and live in local areas while working and their income goes back into the local communities while they are living there.

Further they absolutely do NOT take positions from local workers. I am also an Employment Consultant with an Employment Services Provider locally and all my participants who want work locally in the season harvest have work. For every 40-50 enquiries from Holiday Visa holders I would get only 1 from an Australian worker. I have no particular preference either way and am only concerned with hard working, reliable and available workers who can meet my requirements for quality, productivity and flexibility. The most common reason I receive from local workers for any reluctance to take these positions is the cost of travel and accommodation in areas away from their normal residence. Very few are willing to travel and live away for a short term position in a remote region with little accommodation other than camping - its a pretty rugged life in the wet and the cold and the backpackers are to be commended for their resilience under many circumstance living in vans and tents.

The requirement to work regionally and in certain industries is absolutely vital to ensure that sufficient workers are able to be sourced for regional and remote areas and in industries such as horticulture with short intensive seasons. This should remain a requirement for a second working visa after which time only those who developed good technique return for another harvest. The tourism and other industries then receive the benefit of this pool of workers in there second visa. These industries are also in more populous areas with a larges pool of

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

employable and unemployed locals and do not have the specialized needs of regional and remote horticultural industries.

**Name**

ka man Cheung

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 6:43:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

many working holiday makers have not been respect and get their salary or remuneration, they want to get the second-working holiday visa and work in the farm or factory, but lot of them work hard but the salary is not make sense, some of the employer lied that they can provide the 2ND working holiday visa, but is a imposture

**Name**

Chris Hsieb

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:36:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I'm a working holiday-markers then I think we are good and benefiting Australia, so just don't ever try to add our tax Please Thanks

**Name**

Jeffrey Kirk

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 7:03:39 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

A flat tax rate of 10-15% that isn't refunded would be fair as they use our public roads. Super should be able to be refunded on departing Australia.

**Name**

Matthew Bengam

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:15:29 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Top Citrus Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

When the proposed tax was to be introduced in July 2016, 20 of the 22 seasonal workers we had employed were going to leave on if not before the tax was introduced. This would have left our citrus crop unharvested! When the extension was made until January and my staff were informed, they were all very relieved and continued to work until our season finished at the end of July/early August. There are a fair number of these people waiting on the decision of the back packer tax as to whether they will return for work next season or cut their working holiday short. This tax at the 32.5% rate would affect our business catastrophically. As far as Australians wanting work. This season I had two Australian residents apply for harvest work out of the 25 required. We open our harvest vacancies to whom ever is keen to do the work. Out of the 2 Australians wanting to work in our harvest, only one of those completed the season, the other failed to turn up to work before the season was finished (less than a week of work was carried out) with no notification. After discussions with our seasonal workers the general conversation usually goes as such; 32.5% tax rate makes Australian harvest work far less appealing and makes Canada and New Zealand a much better option, the superannuation we (employee) pay to them is wasted as most of the super they earn gets taken up as fees before they get access to it. In my personal opinion, the tax rate should sit at 19% and all superannuation to working holiday makers be paid straight to them not through a super fund. This would give the government 19% but in reality the working holiday maker only feeling the brunt of 10-9.5%. It would be far more productive to pay the holiday workers their super straight to them, have none of that taken up in fees, and see that money spent back into our local economies whilst they stay/work in our amazing country which they all love.



**Name**

Wong Mei Chun

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:19:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Working holiday makers deserve better treatment as we are all doing hard work and making large contribution to Aistralia.

The proposed Tax is unreasonably high that expoilt our basic right and make us difficult to survive here.

Stronly DISAGREE to the increasing tax!!

**Name**

Eeva Löppönen

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 8:17:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

You are asking the wrong questions.

European backpackers give back to this country almost as much as they earn. (tourism, bars, restaurants, hostels, car rentals etc) Raising the tax so high makes us not to be able to do this anymore.

I know no one, that comes here just to make money and go back. People from my country and other Europeans i've met here, come here to experience, not to just make money or to live on your expence.

**Name**

Jason Tseng

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 10:26:04 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Agriculture in Australia is really rely on backpacker. If carry out high tax policy,it's not fair for backpacker. These tax only benefit Aussie but backpacker. And remember most backpacker they only get minimum payment and poor working conditions. All of us is human.

**Name**

Paul Totorica

**Date Lodged**

16 Aug 2016 9:32:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australian Workers are too lazy to work on vegetable farms this is why we need backpackers. 15% is tax they should be paying and they should not receive any superannuation at all. We also need to be able to sponsor backpackers for farm work.

**Name**

YUNG-CHIEH LIU

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 12:13:00 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

**Country**

TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

**Written Submission**

Dear Australian Government

32.5% income tax rate is too high to working holiday-makers

We fully understand we have to pay the tax to Australian Government if we do have a job in your country

but if increase to 32.5% , how the working holiday-makers live ...

please trust we can do win win if there's no too high income tax ....

**Name**

Garry Deale

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 12:09:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country****Written Submission**

copy of an email to a Sydney newspaper on this issue.

"Clancy, thank you for today's article on the so called backpacker tax.

This is the closest I've seen to accurate reporting. I've written to a number of reporters pointing out they are misreporting on this issue.

Of course there's no new tax. Backpackers have always been required to pay tax at 32.5%.

As you point out the proposed change is to the rules around residency for tax purposes. If you have a look at the ATO you'll see the test for residency is not simply to have been here (in Australia) for six months. Backpackers must have worked in one place for more than six months. Most fail this test as their group certificates clearly show. So how do they manage to claim the tax free threshold I hear you ask.

This is both the underlying problem and the real story in my opinion.

Word of mouth ensures all backpackers know full well they can be charged less tax depending on how they fill out the Employee Declaration Form they're required to provide to each employer.

Question 7 says are you a resident? They simply tick yes. Q8 says do you wish to claim the tax free threshold, again they tick yes. In many cases the employer fills out the forms for them.

Most farmers want to deduct as little tax as possible because it keeps the backpacker happier.

So why doesn't the ATO question the validity of these forms once they receive their copy from the employer? My guess is the ATO has neither the will nor the means to police this. In fact by the time the ATO has these details it's too late. The wage has been paid, the lower tax already deducted and the backpacker has moved on.

So now the Government decides no backpacker can claim residency. Will that solve the problem? Not unless the ATO does something to stop the Declaration Forms being incorrectly filled out.

In fact without educating farmers/employers nothing may change and I believe the ATO is reluctant to admit it has these problems. They won't want to antagonise farmers and employers by making them out to be the bad guys in this issue. I can't see the ATO changing the form just for backpackers. Come tax time backpackers are forced to "agent shop" trying to find a tax agent prepared to overlook the rules in order to claim back the tax they've paid. I wonder how many backpackers leave the country with a tax debt. The Government may have to compromise just to hide the ATO failure to manage its own system.

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

I posed these questions to my local National member (safest Nat seat in the country) but got the standard "we're reviewing the tax" reply."

This is the real issue

**Name**

Calvin Lewis

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 1:49:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers and Australians have a different aspects of money since Aussies are often offered higher rates of pay in better positions. And many of the backpackers take on lower level positions that not only pay less but are often treated unfairly, discriminated and have their work rights abused.



**Name**

David Peace

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 3:36:43 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Feedback from working holiday visa holders and international students over some years strongly indicates concerns with many Australian employers (particularly but not exclusively, co-ethnic employers that set out to exploit their special position of shared language and culture to prey on their compatriots) The recent Insight program on this issue showed the true level of abuse of the system.

The following examples are very commonly the experience of many of those I have worked with;

Employers offering pseudo training on the job (for no pay) for periods up to a week or more before beginning to pay.

Employers insisting that the job is casual and that they don't want a TFN number and that the rate of pay will be \$9 to &11 cash in hand.

Employers insisting that the Stu & or Wk/Hol visa holder use their TFN to get an ABN number so they can be considered as a sub-contractor (despite the fact that they are patently not an independent contractor) with the attendant problems that arise with the ATO down the track.

The Stu/Wk hol visa holders rarely have the language skills or confidence to confront or negotiate with a contractor or employer.

Employers frequently have a Take-it-or-leave it attitude that intimidates prospective employers.

Whilst the legislation may be adequate (I don't really know) it is apparent from all the workers I speak to and certainly those from the SBS Insight program that there is widespread abuse by many industries particularly the Hospitality, Commercial Cleaning and Primary Industry sectors.

An unintended consequence of eliminating the tax-free threshold for Stu/Wk Hol Visa holders and taxing at a high marginal tax rate will be to drive even more of them into the hands of the exploiters who will certainly be happy with this outcome.

The consequence of this will be a reduction in tax contribute rather than the increase envisaged.

Perhaps the most tragic unintended consequence of the current systemic abuse is the poor perception of Australia that these young people will take home to their country, many of these enterprising young people will have important roles to play in the future and we want them to have positive perceptions not negative ones.

**Name**

Jane Phillips

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 4:22:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Warren Cauliflower Group Inc

**Country**

**Written Submission**

We believe that the tax for backpackers should be around 14-15%, not 32.5%

**Name**

Ronald Rawlins

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 5:12:58 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a working hostel in country Victoria and for the past 15 years we have been supplying dairy and vegetable farms with backpackers.

This has given our small town a cultural experience they wouldn't have had before. We now have a constant flow of Europeans coming through our Hostel and town. Spending their money in supermarkets hairdressers and so on.

The farms in this area would not have kept their production levels up if it was not for our overseas visitors. The average weekly gross wage is about \$600 and to have 32% taken as a non refundable tax would be extreme. Backpackers stay working and living in our Hostel for 3mths to 6mths saving to explore Australia and getting to know regional Victoria. Getting taxed 32% would only encourage them not to come to Australia and to spend money in other countries.. Backpackers work hard and then spend in our beautiful country and want to have two years to do so.

**Name**

John Hassell

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 5:55:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The solution to WHM's paying tax is simple. If they work for two weeks then they should pay tax at the same marginal rates as anyone at 2/52. In effect pro rata the working time over the time they are in Australia and they effectively pay the same marginal rates as anyone else.

**Name**

Peter O'Reilly

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 5:20:00 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If the proposal to tax working holiday visa holders at 32.5% from the first dollar proceeds there will be a devastating impact on the wine grape industry in boutique areas such as the Granite Belt where all harvesting is by hand. Crops will not be able to be picked fast enough resulting in severe crop losses.

On the Granite Belt wine is a keystone of the local tourism industry - if it fails the jobs losses in food, accommodation and retail will be catastrophic.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 6:12:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Getting tax back is a really big factor in deciding to come to Australia. i would never do the work I am doing at the moment back in the uk and feel that if backpackers have to pay significantly more tax, the tourism industry will be affected, which in turn will have a huge impact on the agricultural section as nobody will be here to do their second year visa. We hoe weeds in the rain and mud, sort ripe nuts out in 45 degree rooms amongst various other tasks and we consider ourselves lucky to have such a good job. Fruit pickers have it so much worse as they have to deal with mice and snakes on a regular basis and get paid per kilo (often under the legal rate). This will just promote more cash in hand jobs which seems counter productive as no tax at all will be paid.

**Name**

Melissa Campbell

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 6:41:42 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The Australian Government should grant all industries in rural approved areas to sign 2nd year visas. This would encourage more people to low populated regional towns; assist with labour needs; and contribute to the local economy, and importantly promote good 'word of mouth' tourism amongst the backpacking community.'

**Name**

Cameron Miskovsky

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 7:49:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The Australian Government should grant all industries in rural approved areas to sign 2nd year visas. This would encourage more people to low populated regional towns; assist with labour needs; and contribute to the local economy, and importantly promote good 'word of mouth' tourism amongst the backpacking community



**Name**

taxpying Australian

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 8:39:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Long term unemployed youth MUST be FORCED to relocate to regional areas to undertake this work. If they do not agree to they MUST have their GRAVEY TRAIN DOLLARS CUT.

If it was good enough for me to move to WA from the Eastern states to get a job, it's good enough for those lazy %#%##\$^\$&\*\$\*^ dole bludgers to get off their arses' and work.

Backpackers think it's great, they can work and save and then travel to Asia on the money they earnt, some not spending any in OZ. I know, I spoke to a heap of them in Asia!!!!

Backpackers should pay same tax as everyone else.

The obsolete mining donga's being sold off for a song, should be purchased by farmers to house the workers on site.

Dodgy operators should be hit with more than a feather.

**Name**

Brendan Egan

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 9:01:09 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Having worked alongside backpackers and involved with employers of backpackers I am of the strong belief that the backpacker tax will prevent backpackers from making enough of a profit to survive and travel within our country. Those who are employed in regional areas are generally paid by locals and then spend their money within the local area helping sustain and grow local economies. The money they don't spend locally is applied to their travel which still remains in the Australian economy and assist with their relocation to another area to repeat the process of contributing to a local economy.

**Name**

Rob Atkinson

**Date Lodged**

17 Aug 2016 11:13:56 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Rural and regional Australia will suffer if backpacker workers are discouraged, by whatever means from working and travelling in these areas. Keep the tax rate low.

**Name**

Michael Reid

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 8:47:15 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a lucky country. We have developed a very affluent lifestyle by world standards. The down side is that Australian residents no longer want to work in the heat, dust and flies and menial labouring jobs no longer have any status. The viability of our rural industries and our food security depends on the availability of seasonal workers. Our regional communities depend on the viability of their local farmers. Many work visa holders depend on the work to help their families who don't enjoy the affluence we do. Encouraging seasonal workers is a sustainable form of foreign aid that benefits all communities. Excessive taxation, red tape and exploitation will ruin it for everyone. Fair taxation, minimal red tape and scrutinized employers are what is needed across all industries - not just rural. It will help also us become a more cosmopolitan and tolerant society and break down the irrational fears of the xenophobes.

**Name**

Claire Downie

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 9:47:12 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I would like to see the backpacker tax reduced and more regional industries including hospitality allowed to sign off on second year visas. I also don't understand why we as employers should be paying foreign working holiday makers superannuation. They don't inject it back into our economy they take it home ,it's an expense I don't think we should be required to pay them.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 10:48:20 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I think the government should be focusing on the agricultural labor hire industry where backpackers are exploited by farmers but more often exploited by accommodation providers in these regional areas. These "working hostels" offer unsafe, unsanitary and very unfair conditions for WHV makers needing farm work, plus accommodation plus transfers to work. Providing information and avenues to support is simply not enough; behind every exploited backpacker is another backpacker willing to be exploited to complete their 88 days....it's a vicious circle....one I was a part of.

**Name**

Valene Spence

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 10:48:57 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It is too regulated to employ foreign workers. The Australian economy needs backpackers; they should be more appreciative and set up better programs to assist them. Not heavily tax them!

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 11:24:50 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Backpackers are a valued resource for the primary industry especially for new small business and by taxing and putting regulation on their short time here in Australia, it is discouraging the backpackers to come to Australia and work in regional Australia. Our farm heavily rely on their help for seasonal work and we would not be able to continue in our business without them



**Name**

David Blacket

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 4:07:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday visa holders should be taxed at the same rate as seasonal workers, for example a 13% flat rate. They should also have the same tax free threshold. Most of the payg tax is claimed back and spent in the tourism industry before departure. If the threshold is dropped to zero this is money that will be kept by government (and largely wasted) and not spent in regional tourism areas.

**Name**

Amy Adams

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 4:19:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

I've done my 1st year in Australia, doing 3 months rural as well as travel and live in Sydney. The amount of money I spent in Australia - thousands on rent, food, transport and tourist places - seems to have been misplaced by the government. Backpackers are there to earn money to spend there. And they, like I, complete the rural work so they can stay and explore the beautiful country longer. I was going to come back to Australia but until it's decided on tax, there's no point. I can use my professional skills here in the UK to earn a stable wage instead.

**Name**

laurie benedetto

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 3:35:50 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

don't hurt young hard working Europeans. Australia is better with them.

**Name**

Nathan Baronio

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 4:54:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

EP Strawberries Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a family owned and operated business that unfortunately operates in a line (Strawberries) that requires significant numbers of workers to both pick, pack and maintain the plants. We faced numbers that were well below the normal last year and struggled to find staff to continue to provide this work that simply non of the locals in Stanthorpe are willing to do. We constantly advertise through the local harvest office for workers with little to no applications.

If the Backpacker Tax is implemented and the number of available seasonal workers is diminished (many of our South Korean workers had told us their friends back home were being told by their government officials not to go to Australia due to the incoming tax) we as a family business will have no choice but to scale back.

**Name**

Gavin Booth

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 5:38:12 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I do believe that some company's and labor hire businesses have let us down, As per ABC's 4 Corners. Make an example of a few would help the situation. I have had backpackers come to me and say that the previous employer said that as they (worker) had not paid their tax, so they have broken broken the law. Which is clearly rubbish with PAYE and clearly a ruse for the employer to not legitimately employ people and pass it on to the ATO. I feel that if you do not pass on the tax free threshold, you will drive this type of employment into a cash system as you find in many countries.

**Name**

Lissa Mckibbin

**Date Lodged**

18 Aug 2016 6:31:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Glen Aplin autos pty ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Small businesses in rural towns will also suffer when we rely heavily on the "peak tourist season" that comes with back packers

**Name**

Li Lin

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 1:57:02 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

**Written Submission**

I'm Taiwanese and am going to Australia in 2 months. Therefore the new backpacker tax policy is my biggest concern.

1. As working holiday worker, we can only work mostly minimum wage/ hard labour jobs. It just doesn't make any sense to put such high tax on hard working foreign workers as we have to try to make the ends meet without unemployment benefit.

2. It's very well-known that illegal work not only exist and there are tons of them ready to rip the backpacker off.

Because the job categories for WH workers are limited. That means it's competitive in the similar fields. When it's hard to find a legal job already, most of the backpackers can only settle in the illegal ones.

3. I highly doubt the tax income from backpackers will benefit Australia more than before. As most of the backpackers come here to experience live and work abroad. They either save up the money for further travelling in Australia, or they spend it on variable things right after they get paid. But when the tax get higher, it's definelty going to impact badly on how they plan to spend their money on.

4. The new policy is basically discrimination toward foreign workers. And it doesn't affect only on backpackers, it will affect on the local as well. When government tries to claim the tax for certain purpose, it's going to against some of their citizens' will. To have money flow in the market is a good thing, to take it out is not. And the population of backpackers is not even that big to have powerful tax income. Especially if the policy enacts, the number of backpacker is going to decline and the tax income will go down. Less backpacker means less tax income. Less tax income means this new policy will be ineffective. It's a bad circle.

**Name**

Elizabeth Beattie

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 10:39:34 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We own and run a 1000 cow dairy farm in southern Tasmania.

All dairy farms in Tasmania have huge difficulties in recruiting staff as the work is believed to be too hard, the hours are unsocial and the work is dirty. However, dairy farms in the south of Tasmania have even more trouble as there are only 12 of us over a very large area so there is no working culture in dairying.

Local workers range from wonderful to appalling but, unfortunately the ratio of appalling to wonderful is 20:1.

There is high unemployment in the Derwent Valley but all agricultural employees have difficulty in recruiting from the local labour force. There is too much Government Support for people on the dole and therefore a lack of incentive to search for work. In fact people who live a short distance further up the valley do not even have to search for work in order to claim unemployment benefit.

Altogether we employ 1 permanent local person and 2 part-time, temporary locals, plus two 457 visa holders, three 416 visa holders. The majority of locals are not interested in working, they are unreliable (and reliability in dairying is vitally important) and they have an expectation of government support rather than working for an income. We employ 3 or 4 backpackers every year for up to 6 months during the calving and irrigation season.

Until this year, when I placed an advert on-line through Gumtree, I would get approximately 15 - 20 replies a day from good quality backpackers. This year I have been lucky to get 2 or 3 a day and only one has been suitable. Without good, reliable, temporary staff (and the majority of backpackers fit this description) we cannot have a safe business. The remainder of the staff cannot take on the extra work. The proposed huge increase in tax for every backpacker is obviously impacting hugely on people coming to Australia to work. A year ago, all the backpackers locally (working in orchards, vineyards, dairies etc) were talking about the increase in tax that was proposed so that has translated into lower numbers of available staff. A decision has to be made quickly and I hope that the decision is made to maintain the tax system as it has been.

In the existing tax system for backpackers, if they are planning to work for 6 months, they can be treated as Australians, which I think is fair. If they are not here for 6 months work then they have to pay 32.5% tax. However to make all backpackers, who may work for over 6 months pay 32.5% tax is totally unreasonable. They will have too large a disincentive to come over here to work and to see Australia. Don't forget, travelling in Australia is not cheap - food in cafes is



expensive compared to European countries. They need to work in order to travel and return some of their income to the Australian economy while they are here.

I am pleased that the working holiday visa is not being extended for people who have worked as volunteers or 'woofing' on organic farms. Having advertised fairly frequently on Gumtree for paid staff, I have been grossly irritated by the frequency of people to advertise work for no pay (and frequently on hobby farms, or as nannies - neither of which quality for a 2nd year visa) in return for signing the 2nd year visa form. I have had numerous backpacker tell me that was common, particularly in Queensland, for people to offer accommodation in return for full-time work with absolutely no pay and a signed 2nd year visa form. Why should a non-organic business have to pay its staff correctly, with all the legal requirements, workers comp insurance etc and organic farmers have the dispensation to not pay anyone at all? If, as they claim they cannot afford to pay staff, then their business is unsound. Please see attached documents

**Name**

Heather Smaellie

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 4:07:38 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Perth Demi Pair (au pair agency)

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have been placing au pairs in with families on a Cultural Exchange Programme for 15 years, in the early days I had to explain what an au pair was, it is now obvious that we strongly need au pairs. Families need them so many shift workers, both parents working and not enough child care places available to families and limited hours. These girls take a gap year and apply for this programme to do 15 hours in EXCHANGE for FULL board and get A\$180 per week pocket money, and they spend it all each week, if you tax them a third of this that is a big slice to take. These girls and all on WHV SPEND the money they earn in Australia, they are tourists, they travel around Australia using the money they have earned here. We have a huge shortage of girls this year because of this tax issue, we have dozens of families needing au pairs and none arriving they are choosing UK and NZ before Australia.(our agents in Germany tell us) Families will go crazy sorting out tax payments and super for the girls,(who only stay a max of six months with them). when they leave then there is the issue of the girls applying to get the tax and super back so they won't do it. Tourism will have lost a lot of revenue since this was first announced we know from our partner agents overseas numbers are down for Australia. All so Australia can get more tax, and to the detriment of the au pair industry and the agricultural industry 2 industries that need these youth on the WHV because Australian youth do not do these jobs

**Name**

Gregory Waites

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 12:33:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

D & HN Sydney Pty the norman family trust (ta) Coral Sea Resort

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday paid workers should not contribute to superannuation but should be paid this amount directly in addition to their normal rates of pay. This amount 9.5% can be then be taxed at their nominal rates of tax. Savings on administration for companies and government would arise and additional taxation can be

levied.

My Business is highly reliant on these workers up to 10 at any one time. Rooms cleaners 4-6 hours per day and food and beverage workers. the hotel 77 accommodation rooms trades 86% occupancy year round. We do 70 weddings per year and operate the finest restaurant in the region. The business is slightly seasonal. There simply are not enough local people with an interest in this type of work. I have records of positions advertised which have been impossible to fill.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 7:38:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Too many rogue employers and labour hire contractors are exploiting foreign workers with piece rates, which should be SCRAPPED!! It is not a fair playing field for the honest employers. Backpackers are being paid as low as \$5.00 per hour on piece rates. The minimum wage should be:- (currently \$22.13 per hour) and nothing less allowed! Or if they have the ability to earn/pick more - an agreement reached that benefits both the employee and the employer. Why employ locals when you can exploit foreign workers? This is a MAJOR, MAJOR problem. Large rogue employers are now building accommodation places to house workers. (Stay in my hostel/accommodation and I will give you work.) Now they can pay them legally but charge them an exorbitant price for the accommodation! - catch 22!

WHY? WHY? are we paying superannuation for foreign workers? The red tape of this is SO time consuming! A backpacker weeds for 4 days and you need to join him (application form) to a super fund. You never see him again yet you have to spend over an hour to pay a \$40 superannuation bill. Multiply this by 30 times a year and one is nearly ready to "neck" themselves!! Superannuation which he never collects or is even aware of, when he leaves the country. Your super fund hassles you for more information on his whereabouts and it is basically .... I don't know and I don't really care! I have met my obligations. This superannuation should be given to the government (which can be monitored/audited) in order to maintain a level playing field for "local" workers. Many rogue employers are not paying superannuation for foreign workers.

Foreign workers are a great asset to our business which is seasonal. They are decent hard working kids that deserve to be treated with respect.

A tax of 12% on the very first dollar foreign workers earn is not unreasonable plus 9.5% superannuation would give the government a tax revenue of 21.5%.

**Name**

Phil Harding

**Date Lodged**

19 Aug 2016 9:37:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Many backpackers are a drain on local resources consuming local authorities funds at a far greater rate than local rate paying residence.

Many backpackers work for low wages thus contributing to an oversupply of fruit and vegetables. Small producers that don't employ the services of backpackers are forced to work for less because they are competing with the low cost of labour that back packers provide.

**Name**

Stewart Dobson

**Date Lodged**

20 Aug 2016 12:06:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Remote and regional Australia, because of their small local populations rely on seasonal workers for farm and rural work. There are usually not enough locals available and prepared to work in tough conditions.

If 'backpackers' were taxed at an unacceptable rate compared to other countries we would lose a substantial workforce.

If businesses, particularly intensive horticulture businesses, in remote and regional Australia do not have access to seasonal workers it would be difficult if not impossible for them to survive..

If the government is so desperate for income they should look at cutting expenditure rather than taxing seasonal workers to such an extent that  
will deter these workers from coming to Australia.

**Name**

Wilson Wijaya

**Date Lodged**

20 Aug 2016 2:33:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

INDONESIA

**Written Submission**

Please speed up the process of second year visa for subclass 462 so it will take effect at least late of 2016.

Thanks.

**Name**

Anne & Will Casey

**Date Lodged**

20 Aug 2016 2:39:14 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Many small crop farmers are hiding behind the contractors stating: 'it is not our responsibility'.....they seemingly do not care very much about the underpayment and the employment conditions..... To state that the backpackers spend their money in Australia is 75% untrue.....if this is so, why did the Figian tomato pickers in Victoria need to send money home to their families.....why was the Korean backpacker murdered on the Darling Downs...(because he was overheard he was sending a large amount of money back to Korea).....survey the motels and tourist venues in the country.....very low percentage book in backpackers.....we have a holiday block on the Queensland beach and we never see backpackers come into it.



**Name**

Charles Lowe

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 3:01:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Despite your attempt at epistemological imprisonment, I think the Government is being "penny wise, pound foolish".

**Name**

peter upton

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 8:20:35 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

backpackers by the bay

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

this topic has been the most discussed topic by our backpacker guests since it was suggested and the overwhelming majority has expressed to me that they would not have come to Australia if it was put in place now

**Name**

ROD SCHAFFER

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 10:11:44 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

KOOKABURRA HOLIDAY PARK

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

ENOUGH AUSTRALIAN WORKERS CANNOT BE FOUND FOR BANANA FARM WORK AND SEASONAL PRAWN/FRUIT/VEGETABLE FARM WORK. NO TAX THRESHOLD WOULD SEE BANANAS GO BROKE AND CARDWELL TOWN TO CLOSE AS THERE IS ONLY 700 PEOPLE MANY OF WHOM ALSO WORK ON THE FARMS PERMANENTLY. OUR BACKPACKERS/MOTEL/CARAVAN PARK WILL GO BROKE FIRST. SHOPS WILL FOLLOW AND WITH NO JOBS PEOPLE WILL MOVE AWAY. ALL THOSE WHO HAVE INVESTED IN BUSINESS OR RESIDENTIAL WILL GO BROKE. THE AUTOMATION OF SUGAR CANE FARMING HAS ALREADY COST MANY JOBS. THE BACKPACKERS SPEND WHAT THEY HAVE LOCALLY AND ON TOURISM. THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS OF BALANCING THE BUDGET SUCH AS NO MORE CHARTER FLIGHTS FOR POLITICIANS

**Name**

Philip Pyke

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 9:46:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Fruit Growers Tasmania

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Fruit Growers Tasmania has made multiple submissions on this issue over the past twelve months after canvassing the itinerant workers through the grower membership of the organisation. A clear outcome from these engagements is the high level of disappointment on the manner with which this has been managed by the Australian Government. Since being announced in May 2015, there has been considerable time to hold inquiries but none were held. The Government has been indecisive and while the TOR of the inquiry are acceptable, the plans to implement any changes in harvest again demonstrates the Canberra-centric thinking to this issue in addition to the damage of leaving this matter in a hiatus during the election period.

The inability to progress this issue has already caused major issues in the itinerant workforce which is the surge capability across the production horticulture sector at peak times. It is clear the changes which industry is now seeing with fewer backpackers being engaged in the berry sectors in Queensland will be the forerunner of the challenges for growers over the 2016/2017 harvest season. The Government cannot reverse the damage which has already been created through this mismanagement.

Moving to the point of the tax - clearly the rate of 32.5% was never discussed with industry. Just rumours of this rate being implemented is causing the current down-turn in backpacker labour. Therefore it is a rate which is unacceptable and if it is implemented, then again it demonstrates Government is not engaged. Getting this right in the tax sense will have an immediate impact (as it already is) on the supply of itinerant workers - which will directly influence Australia's competitive position within export markets.

A tax rate acceptable to industry:

In canvassing the growers and the backpackers under their employment, Fruit Growers Tasmania indicates a rate of 19.5% would be acceptable. However if this tax is implemented, the question has been raised as to what can the backpackers receive for their tax payments - Medicare access? Certainly the high wages are attractive in bringing backpackers here but it is noted other nations provide certain benefits as the result of the back-packers being tax-payers in that country.

Employment of locals in regional areas:

The aim should always be to train and employ more locals in regional areas but the current government systems make this quite difficult, especially in the transition of individuals moving between unemployment benefits and seasonal work. There are critical national shortages across agriculture in middle level management - yet the current system doesn't assist in finding solutions. The Centrelink processes of getting a person to even work up to 10 hours a week are onerous and job service agencies aren't willing to provide work-pathways where employers don't receive subsidies. The major limitation is there isn't any alignment across the sectors between Centrelink and the agriculture or tourism sectors as it is a one size fits all approach.

Additionally there are multiple State and Federal programs focusing on assisting the unemployed - but in the experience of Fruit Growers Tasmania, each program generally works in isolation of other programs rather than being interlinked into a broader regional or state strategy.

Fruit Growers Tasmania has worked with the State Government to consider the value of regional community owned job hubs where locals can be hubbed across the production horticulture sectors to access up to 10 mnths worth of work. A trial job hub is current established in the Huon Valley has industry and community support with State funding. If the issue of locals being employed in agriculture is to be better managed, then a non-conventional approach is required nationally but with regional solutions like the job hub program. This is innovative but needs broader application on regional basis under a Federal strategy. Relevant training for locals can be coupled into these community job hubs as well to produce work ready staff. Employment of locals is an area which State, Territory and Federal Governments would like to solve - and it is solvable but current government processes and relevant unemployment policies are limiting.

As an example: people are currently channelled into "Work for the Dole" programs whereas they could be channelled into real work particularly in the agriculture sector where they can access skills and training and improve their individual pathways. Again this could be coordinated through the community owned jobs hubs which would act as the employer (in order to maintain consistency in entitlements including leave) and outsource the workers to the jobs across the production horticulture sector into work streams of up to 10 months worth of work. This can be achieved through moving from (as an example) harvest in cherries to berries to apples/wine grapes before moving back into other tasks like planting, pruning or thinning across the year. Couple these opportunities with vegetables, nuts and other areas within production horticulture across regional areas and there will be enough work if it can be coordinated efficiently.

However this has to be centrally coordinated across regional areas but will be more effective in matching workers with employers if other elements of the framework, such as more manageable Centrelink processes, are engaged. Under the job hub project, the hub employs the workers and then moves them across the required areas, limiting the impact on the growers. The employment services can include training with the funds raised through the provision of workers being returned into the job hub to the benefit of the local community. This process through the hubs can address both the short-term and long-term requirements for both the agricultural and tourism sectors initially and in the longer term, the hub can be used for other sectors within a region. Additionally the job hub as the name denotes hubs the job vacancies - noting most producers use word of mouth outside peak times. There is a need to streamline the job vacancies as well as working out strategies to attract and retain people with the required skills especially at senior levels.

In reviewing the challenges of the itinerant workforce, larger growers are able to move workers around their operations by bus or engagement through the seasonal worker program whereas small - medium growers are dependent on drop-ins or phone/email inquiries. The Federal Government funded Harvest Trail has not been successful in Tasmania, methods of employment on farms are inconsistent and Fruit Growers Tasmania often finds itself operating as the pseudo-employment hub for the sector due to the lack of consolidated employment services. Coupled with this is the often lack of transport into regional areas for locals who may wish to find employment - with the transport element being a key limitation for the employment of locals.

#### Protection of workers pay and rights:

Under the TOR there is the issue of exploited workers. This is a key issue which needs greater oversight on labour hire companies with heavier penalties to apply for exploiting vulnerable people including tourists or foreign students. The community owned job hubs while focusing on employment of locals could also be the transit point for itinerant workers in each area too which would be open to relevant audit processes by Fairwork Australia. However it doesn't prevent the exploitation of workers by individual employers or foreign based labour hire companies bringing overseas workers here. This will require strengthened laws and penalties within the regulatory arrangement where each labour hire company should be registered through Government with Fairwork Australia conducting regular audits of the companies. Unregistered labour hire companies must face heavy fines as well as any company using their services.

Fairwork Australia needs to continue to work with growers and industry bodies to ensure employment requirements are understood and complied with as part of their ongoing education program.

#### Volunteer Labour:

In relation to attracting surge labour requirements at peak times, consideration must include volunteer labour as well. Growers of small - medium sizes especially in the organic sector rely heavily on the WWOOFers (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) and have been disadvantaged since the visa changes meant volunteer work could no longer apply towards a second year visa. This position requires reversing in recognition of the unique way this sector engages its workers through a world-wide organisation and is an example of how Government got this wrong

#### Superannuation:

This has long been a point of contention with growers and in reality paying overseas visitors superannuation is contrary to the intent of the scheme which is for the retirement of Australians, not as an extra cash payment. However, eliminating superannuation to itinerant workers such as back-packers can create a two-tiered work-force which is contrary to employment standards within Australia.

However, growers have long indicated that superannuation, aside from being a regulatory impost, is a cash bonus which workers either claim once they leave Australia or if the superannuation is left, it is later claimed by Government. Therefore this issue needs to be addressed as to how superannuation is applied.

One line of thinking is the equivalent sum to superannuation is paid by the employer, collected by Government and returned for market development, operation of industry bodies, collaborative research projects or funding of key positions or even job hub projects in the State or Territory where the amount is originally paid. This could be under a State or Territory grants or funding scheme designed to improve the relevant sector. The money cannot be used to simply prop up Government budgets in addition to a level of taxation.

### Expanding the supply of seasonal and foreign workers

There has to be a reasonable balance between employment of itinerant workers and locals and six months is not adequate time to develop strategies which can solve the long-term employment and retention problems within agriculture. However this engagement around the back-packer tax should be the first step.

**Name**

Sherrie Breitkopf

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 9:38:56 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Mundubbera is one of largest citrus producers in QLD. We also have table grapes, blueberries and mangoes. In our region the workforce is made up of approx. 50% pacific islanders (who send 80% of their weekly pay back to their home countries) 35% backpackers (who spend 95% of their earnings in Australia) 10% locals and 5% grey nomads. If the tax is implemented and the backpackers don't come. Who will fill the gap, more pacific islanders, who don't support our economy. It certainly won't be locals. Firstly there are not enough of them and secondly, they won't do the work because a lot of farmers pay on piece rate and it is really difficult to make the minimum wage. Backpackers work like slaves sometimes in order to achieve their second year visa. Australians are too smart to be treated that way. Lets not penalise the backpacker for working hard to help our farmers get their fruit off. Treat them fairly. If anything take away the need for farmers to pay them superannuation. That is a waste of money. The intention is for retirement, if they can claim it when they get home, what's the point? Consider increasing the cost of car rego and other government services for international travellers so that they are contributing more to our roads and health services. Increase the cost of the visa application fees etc. Consider enforcing all of the unpaid tolls and fines that they never pay, that would raise millions of dollars. I own a caravan park and I see hundred of unpaid tolls come through in the post after they check out.



**Name**

Jessica Drewry

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 9:12:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a Registered Nurse, I am eligible for an employer sponsored visa or skilled migrant worker visa. However these are expensive and a large commitment. It frustrates me that in order to be able to legally work in Australia as a nurse for longer than one year, I have to put my career on hold and go do farm work. I do not mind working 'regionally' but you should be able to do what your career is (I'm very allergic to things on farms!) I am a traveler but I also have a useful profession. I suggest allowing those that are in eligible professions (according to the skilled migrant list of jobs) to complete their 'regional' second year visa applicable work in their individual field. It would still get people working for Australia's regional areas but would allow people to work in their (obviously useful) field while doing so. Also the visa should go up to age 35. Thanks for your attention!

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 11:16:49 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

If a backpacker tax is imposed I would expect the farm or tourism operator will end up picking up the tab for it. This will mean that cheap seasonal labour will get more expensive and threaten specific industries. Taxing backpackers is effectively taxing the employers.

**Name**

Melissa Sutherland

**Date Lodged**

21 Aug 2016 11:24:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our farm business relies on backpackers to get the crop in and off as quick as possible, if we don't have them we will definitely struggle to go forward in the future and our whole lively hood will be put on the line.

**Name**

Guy Robertson

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 12:48:07 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Volunteer work should also count towards second year visa, if conducted through approved hosts. The majority of wwoofing hosts provide a great deal for backpackers and they contribute enormously to the culture and the economy of regional and remote parts of Australia. The length of stay and the number of applicants has dropped significantly since the rules were changed. I feel that most backpackers would be prepared to pay some tax but 32% with no tax free freshhold is too much in paid work situations, when they are not entitled to the same level of services.

**Name**

Mateusz Zebrowski

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 1:16:25 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

POLAND

**Written Submission**

backpackers pay the same tax as everyone else working in Australia. In most countries people are treated as tax residents if they spend there more than 6 months a year. That's common practice around the world. No one has any privileges here. What they want to do is discriminatory. I don't understand why government wants to treat them worse. I am potential backpacker in Australia. Sorry I probably was, cause it's not only that I have to pay airfare from Europe + riddiculously high visa fee + 500 USD for required TOEFL certificate (as I'm from non-english speaking country) and then work my ass off in a job that no one else wants I'd have to pay more than other people doing the same job and pay normal AUS prices in the store while making less than normal minimum wage probably. It's also psychological effect. When I think that if I'd go this year I could earn 100 and going next year for the same effort I'd have to give 1/3 of my money to government for doing literally nothing for me then it doesnt make sense. And the truth is in reality youll feel it even more painful as youll probably get the same accomodation and basic spending, so it's the savings we have to look at. Hypothetically basic expenses are 50. Then instead of having 50 savings you'll have 17. That's a huge cut. Imagine at the end of the stay you have 1700 AUD left instead of planned 5k. You can buy airfare back home...

And now my personal thought on that: I think in 3 years number of backpackers will drop by 60-80% and many of them will not be even undertaking any work, because there is no point in doing that. backpackers in Australia are people with higher education with potential good employment opportunities in their home countries. They won't be picking fruits for minimum wage while paying 33% tax. They have brain. usually

**Name**

Geoffrey Davis

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 10:31:18 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australian workers insist on wages and conditions higher than the position warrants, are unwilling to travel to and work in isolated areas. Taxing backpackers at a higher rate than Australian workers is discriminatory in that we allow foreigners to own our industry, our mines and our farmland, and export our profits. Yet the Govt expects legal labourers to pay extreme levels of tax.

**Name**

Renee Ker

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 11:33:11 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I believe that the current system does not work as they are given their tax money back at the end of their stay here to they spend it in Thailand and Bali and not here to stimulate the tourism industry.

I believe tax refunds should be given to the travelers in the form of a prepaid visa card in Australian dollars so they have to stay and spend it here on travel, accommodation and products.

I believe there should be tax taken of some description but not the high rate that is proposed and don't give them a refund when they are leaving the country. It needs to be spent here.. I see it all too often as a travel manager, people taking their tax refunds out of the country.

**Name**

Mark Kircher

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 1:54:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Our business of 30 years plus could never source enough labour locally at harvest time.

We would be out of business in less than 12 mths. When asked our Backpackers if they would still come to Aust with higher tax, 90% said NO they would travel elsewhere



**Name**

Kevin Williams

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 1:32:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers work in remote areas and earn very little pay, they are here to see our country and will spend money they earn.

Most backpackers are aged between 18 and 15 and are here for a good time, not a long time

Young people will spend money in remote area which helps tourism and local business.

They should not pay any tax.

Australians wont go bush and work.

Encourage those that will

**Name**

Malcolm Blake

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 4:06:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Being both a primary producer & a business owner in the Shepparton area I can first hand who is prepared to work & who isn't backpackers are keen to earn & they have to spend money to live in the local area so they contribute to the local economy, where as the local unemployed 18 to 35 age group are not interested in hard work the dole is too easy. We now rely on back packer labour to harvest the fruit & vegetables and other industries to benefit are dairy and meat processing, all vital export industries to the Australian economy.

**Name**

Suzanne Stubbs

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 5:02:59 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It is not just agriculture or tourism sectors which need working holiday makers. I run a car hire business and I can tell you that Australian's generally do not apply for car detailing work. I need reliability for my small business and backpackers are often more reliable. Many backpackers are highly skilled. Why we are not keeping more of these skilled young people permanently is beyond me. Many people who are unemployed and choosing to because they will take on the work which is available and because they will not commit to being reliable. Please do not make it harder for backpackers.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 7:41:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

most working holiday makers don't make much money, either here or abroad. they should be subject to the tax-free threshold and other tax benefits of tax residents. additionally, exploitation of working holiday maker workers may need some additional prevention measures. our tax dollars will be well spent to get working holiday-makers to undertake work that Australians are unable or unwilling to perform.

**Name**

Carly Veitch

**Date Lodged**

22 Aug 2016 11:48:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The range of specified activities for second year visas is too small. In order to attract people to regional areas, you need to be able to offer 2nd year visa eligibility. Thus should be available for any work in regional postcodes, including bar/waitressing, carer/nursing, roadhouse, domestic help/nanny positions. It is now very difficult to fill these roles in regional and remote areas.

**Name**

Mark Davidson

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 9:42:56 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Landos P/L trading as Tamburlaine Wines

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

A very major issue affecting the international competitiveness of Australian farmers, in some cases affecting their viability in a domestic sector that is squeezed by a very limited number of major supermarkets, is the cost of 7-day/week harvest assistance under existing urban-oriented/dominated labour laws.

The Australian economy, contrary to the urban, anachronistic concept of the 5-day working week, is in part dependent on rural work dictated by crop ripening cycles and weather - factors that have no regard for weekends and overtime. Australian casual labour, student citizens and working holiday-makers and working visa holders, all relish the opportunity to "make hay while the sun shines" - make as much take home money as they can in the shortest time. This has been true for generations and remains true today.

Current labour laws and penalty rates can mean unaffordable cashflow pressure on farm businesses which often have more processing costs to pay before the goods can be sold. In most cases, farm businesses then have to provide the market with credit terms to sell their produce. In most cases, these higher costs cannot be simply passed on to international or domestic buyers in a very competitive marketplace, as some who have never operated a farm business in Australia fail to understand. In cases that I am aware of in my industry, we have seen good crops left out for extra time to deteriorate rather than pay excessive labour rates to harvest over longer shifts or weekends. Not only do many farmers rely on seasonal, flexible, affordable labour, but because much Australian harvest activity around the country overlaps, there is now a deficit of available, affordable labour at critical times.

Looking simply at the tax rate applied to casual farm earnings is not enough. Workers of this type, Australian citizens or otherwise, certainly need to optimise their take home pay so that they can then consume more and thus assist the economy in other ways as well as add to the GST collections. There needs to be incentives for workers to take up the seasonal rural work, but also incentives for farmers to be as productive, sustainable and profitable as possible. Only Australian citizens need to accumulate the superannuation guarantee; this payment to casual overseas visitors is unnecessary and just adds to the seasonal labour costs, whether it be on farms or elsewhere in the economy.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 12:16:02 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Regulations need to change the Specified Work Categories that Working Holiday Makers can do to get their 2nd year visas. I live and own a business in a very small rural town where everyone either has a job or they are unemployable. There are no options for staff except for backpackers and they don't want to come to the outback unless they can get their 2nd Year Visa signed off and cafes/pubs can't sign off on 2nd year Visas!!!

It's unfair and makes it hard to entice back packers to the bush. Please get this changed to aid the people in the bush who are already at a disadvantage!!

**Name**

Anthony Kumnick

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 2:24:09 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I also find the mandatory requirement to pay Woofers under the second year visa program extremely unfair.

A number of farms are hurting bad and the second year visa program where work can be exchanged for an experience of life on a farm, and when the farms are doing it tough it might just save a farmer who cant afford labour and is already doing 14 hours a day seven days a week and may just stop some farm related suicides.

If we dont get backpackers to the rural communities most wont have an understanding of farming life and what farmers have to do to get food on their tables of folks in the city. The problem is that a few bad employers have ruined it for the majority and the government should have address the issue where workers were being exploited and not tarred everyone with the same brush bringing it all down to the lowest common denominator and implementing lazy solutions.

Up until recently we were exchanging work for second year visas and we can give you the names of all our backpackers over the past 4 years as references. I might be cynical but mandatory pay for backpackers in conjunction with the tax proposal seems nothing more than money grabbing.

These backpackers do bring value to rural communities both culturally and financially.



**Name**

Gary Cotterill

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 12:30:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have just spent a weekend in Tieri with my family(son and daughter). The local jobs are all taken by Backpackers ..which is a full abuse of the concept of Backpackers working in Primary Industry and Tourism(they are not in the industries specified).

They are working in Mining Communities and taking jobs from people who have moved their entire families there to work. These Backpackers(not their fault) are employed by Subcontractors and local businesses and directly take jobs from the people who live there. It is a sore topic with locals ..especially the younger ones looking for jobs.

I have no issue with the Backpackers working where it was intended, but taking jobs in mining communities is totally unacceptable. This needs to be investigated and stopped in cases of abuse. They are to work for Primary Industry and Tourism only. As for the Tax issue...25 percent is acceptable.

**Name**

GEOFFREY HENNING

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 4:52:58 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I AM EMPLOYED BY A MAJOR AUSTRALIAN RESELLING COMPANY, WHICH SUPPLIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS TO THE HORTICULTURE GROWERS IN THIS AREA. FROM THIS I HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING FROM MY CLIENTS AS TO WHAT THEY GO THROUGH EMPLOYING BACKPACKERS. I ALSO EMPLOY BACKPACKERS FOR WEEKEND WORK ON MY SMALL ACREAGE GROWING CHILLIES. IF THE GOVERNMENT INCREASES THE TAX TO THESE PEOPLE THE BACKPACKERS WILL NOT COME TO AUSTRALIA TO PICK HORTICULTURE CROPS. THUS GROWERS WILL GO BROKE & SMALL COMMUNITIES LIKE THIS WILL FOLD UP. MY THOUGHTS ARE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CHARGE SOME TAX SUCH AS 19% BUT CERTAINLY NOT 32.5 %. AUSTRALIAN THAT ARE NOT WORKING WILL NOT PICK HORTICULTURE CROPS BECAUSE IT IS TOO HARD FOR THEM & THEY RECEIVE PAYMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT INSTEAD. I JUST HOPE THE POWERS TO BE UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL THIS & COME TO SOME RESOLUTION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

**Name**

Linda O'Bryan

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 5:38:55 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Due to the changes in Australian Tax law and working holiday visas law we no longer get WWOOF people applying to stay with us. Our small farm relied on these mainly young people to make the property viable plus we loved having them come and stay with us. They added to our family life and we learned a lot about how they lived in their countries. We aimed to provide a safe and friendly place for them to stay with lots of good Australian food and culture for them to experience. It was of benefit to both parties I believe. We cannot afford to pay for full time workers so the WWOOF was a great opportunity for everyone to benefit. They lived in the house with us and did all the usual family outings if they wanted to join us. It is a great shame this opportunity for overseas people to stay in this way and get their visas approved has ceased.

**Name**

Susan Ewart

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 5:32:44 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

My husband and I are in our 60's and have been WWOOF hosts for the last 20 years. We rely on this assistance and have noticed a huge decline in backpackers travelling since the changes to 2nd year visa and taxation. If the WWOOFers are not taxed they spend that extra money here in Australia. If they are taxed they will get their tax money back on their departure. Seems a better thing to have them spend here in Australia especially for the small country towns.

**Name**

Kevin Simmons

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 5:56:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

KP & ML Simmons

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There has been a decline in backpackers out west since wooffing has not been able to count towards 2nd year visa

**Name**

Sandra John

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 7:21:42 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am a Wwoof host who, thanks to the insensitive changes made by Government recently, have had only one enquiry from one Wwoofer this year. Three of my neighbours, who are also Wwoof hosts, had no enquiries whatever and one of them at least relies heavily on Wwoofers to maintain his market garden. Wwoofers make a major contribution to many small scale or developing rural enterprises and cottage gardens and their help is invaluable to older or disabled people living on rural properties. I for instance, am a 72 y/o woman, living alone on a small rural block. It is getting increasingly difficult for me to do everything needed to keep things in order, especially things like, chopping wood and cleaning up the windfalls and flood debris (I've had three floods this year over my paddocks, with fences down and debris everywhere). Until recently it didn't matter so much because there were always Wwoofers available to help. Not this year! Obviously Government doesn't care about a handful of old people living in the country (and not running a profitable business / paying taxes) but they should remember that the longer people live independently in their own homes the more money they save on aged care facilities and medical expenses. In addition to that, Wwoofing is an important cultural exchange program that makes friends for Australia overseas and is good for our image internationally. Not to speak of the fact that it is reciprocal. Young (and old) Australians can Wwoof overseas too, learn skills and have experiences that improve their education and contribute to their development and, possibly, that of Australia in the long run. That's the point of it! Frankly I'm appalled that any Government would deliberately sabotage such a valuable and benign program by excluding Wwoofing from the requirements for a second visa. Why make it difficult to get a second visa anyway? I also want to say that I totally oppose the infliction of a 32.5% tax on young holiday makers. It is especially galling when one knows that the Government imposing this unfair burden on young people is NOT requiring a proper contribution from obscenely wealthy and exploitive international corporations. I support the submission of Wwoof Australia and that of the Victorian Farmers' Federation who oppose this unfair tax and ask the review to find in favour of removing it and permitting Wwoofers to claim hours worked for Wwoof hosts towards their second visa.

**Name**

Ewan McAsh

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 7:49:50 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I employ volunteer workers under the wwoofa program. This program has much richer benefits to both then purely a employment for money. WWoofers live and work along side my family we become friends and can show them aspects of Australian lifestyle and culture they would not experience ifl just employed (which I cannot afford). The transaction is two ways exposing myself and my family to other cultures and languages.

beffore the rules changed we often had many travelers who had experienced exploitation at the hand of labour hire companies. The WWoofing was program is a welcome alternative. The Woofing program also has a feedback mechanisms through the online forums so that woofers and wwoofa host alike can ensure a productive and positive experience. By not allowing volunteer labour to count towards we have effectively forced force travellers into the hands of unscrupulous labour hire companies and employers.

**Name**

Tessa Lock

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 5:54:32 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We operate a small family farm. We have enjoyed hosting WWOOFers for the past 5 years and have made some life-long friends. We offer a warm welcome and many guests clearly enjoy the respite from 'hostel life'. We benefit not only from their help around the farm (usually willing, not always successful!!) but also from the great cultural exchange opportunities, especially valuable for our children. We are unable to travel extensively due to the farm, so how wonderful that the world comes to us! Unfortunately the recent visa and tax changes have caused our supply to completely dry up. Down 90%. This is going to have serious financial as well as logistical challenges as we look for paid workers this coming summer. One important issue will be the time taken out of our working day to deal with the training requirements and 'red tape' of employing temp staff. This is a key reason why we prefer to host WWOOFers.



**Name**

kevin lynch

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 6:10:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

the volunteer workers that we engaged were not interfering with Australian jobs as they dont require training or see that volunteering was of any benefit yet people who volunteered here over 10 yrs ago agree that it was one of there life changing experiences

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 9:13:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

The industry is not sufficiently regulated to ensure that backpacker and holiday workers are protected from exploitation. This must be addressed.

I suggest that only a minimal tax be applied to international working-holiday makers (and Aussies on working holidays) in agricultural and regional employment places.

Capital city working holiday employees (including Aussies on working holidays) should pay the same tax as resident locals.

**Name**

Calum Carruth

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 10:01:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Murchison House Station

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a small scale family-owned pastoral enterprise the biggest impact for us was the change that disallowed volunteer work to qualify for a second year visa. As part of the wwoof program volunteer workers gained valuable experience with us while performing short term piece work that local workers were unwilling or unable to undertake. Where we used to induct and at least partially train up to 12 wwoofers every year we have in the last 18 months only hosted 3.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 10:16:12 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I cannot even get on to a government body to search for seasonal workers whether they be Aussie or otherwise. They say they are busy and pass me on to 'another telephonist', spent 2.5 hours on the phone yesterday trying to access information from a gov dept and did not even speak to anyone who even TRIED to help. Not enough staff they told me to handle my search for staff they need all the staff to handle other jobs! Thank god for independent and other employment bodies.

**Name**

Jonathan Hartland

**Date Lodged**

23 Aug 2016 10:33:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have been working with Wwoofers for the last 3 years and have found it a richly rewarding experience, both for the hosts and also the Wwoofers. We have personally met some wonderful people from all over the world and made some lifelong friends too.

**Name**

Frank Giles

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 9:22:31 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This issue is vitally important to us. For years we have employed backpackers to harvest our blueberries. We do not use labour hire companies. The backpackers contact us directly. We pay award rates and accommodate them at a low charge in a cottage otherwise use for accommodation, We have never been let down by these young people. We also have formed close friendship bonds with them and remain contact with for years afterwards.

They not only are reliable workers they hit the ground running taking only one or two days to pick the correct fruit. They never moan and complain and without exception say we are the best experience of work they have had in Australia. Over the years only very few locals have been suitable and these were all girls coming from families with a good work ethic. Since then we have had none. It will be found that many, many growers all over the state, and no doubt the whole country, will say the same thing. The government needs to focus on these shiftless work shy young people - mostly boys - and find methods for change. Trouble is those in small town who have any get up and go have got up and left leaving those who are quite content to lounge about on government benefits. (They need some tough love and a kick up the bum.)

Added to this it is about time the government took another look at the Wwoofer situation. Now they are no longer able to get credit towards a second year visa for the days worked in a voluntary capacity the number has dropped off. We are aged 74 and 75 and work seven days a week so with the loss of wwoofers we not only miss out on the company of keen intelligent young people who are happy to learn new skills and knowledge of healthy food and living, plus comfortable accommodation and excellent meals for only four hours a day work (this in itself could be seen as paid work) it has also put a huge strain on our workload.

Those who made this decision have no idea what they are talking about. Wwoofing, in the main, is not exploitative. But that is another issue that I could write a paper on. I have a wwoofer book with photos and comments from all the wwoofers we have had stay and I would like to submit photo copies of this to give those blinkered bureaucrats and politicians some insight into what it is all about. They apparently have not the slightest idea.

I would like to ask those who make the decision about the backpacker tax if they are prepared to come pick our fruit if we have no workers. If we get no backpackers coming we lose a year's hard work and half of our income. Not to mention the heartbreak of seeing our chemical free top quality blueberries rotting on the bushes. This loss would apply to all fruit growers over

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

Australia. It would be far greater than the \$540 million over four years that this government thought would be easy pickings.

Who is running this show anyway and what are their qualifications for doing so??

**Name**

Roslyn Nixon

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 8:31:52 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There are benefits to Australia hosting holiday makers, backpackers and WWOOF which is not reflected in your above questions. Young people or not so young travel learn about Australia, we learn from them and the cultural exchange is valuable. They are able to support small independent producers who feed into growers markets and local communities. Their earnings come into our economy through their travel and personal consumption.



**Name**

Mark Foan

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 9:19:35 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We used to use voluntary labor through the WWOFA organization but since you prohibited volunteers from being able to access visa extensions for voluntary work it has left us with no alternative other than to work much longer hours ourselves and has pretty much made our business not viable. Not only can we not afford to employ staff in our olive business but they are just not available in remote locations as they are only required for short periods certain times of the year. Please re-instate the ability of volunteers to be eligible for visa extensions

**Name**

Rowan Berecry

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 10:20:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

The Good Rich Fruit Company

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are in the fruit production business. We are very reliant on backpacker labour. The business has a permanent workforce of Australian residents. This is then topped up with short term casuals/backpackers as required. This extra labour requirement varies from about 3 to 60 depending on the time of year.

Since the original announcement of the proposed tax increase every single backpacker has told us that they would not have come to Australia if the higher tax level had been in place. Many have told us of people they know that have already taken Australia off their destination list as a result of the taxation hike threat.

A massive concern for us is that our harvest will commence mid January, 2017. We will be requiring 60+ extra staff to carry out this task. If the decision on the tax review has not been made well in advance of January 1st, there will not be enough backpackers coming to Australia to meet the demand. They will have made plans and gone elsewhere prior. It is hard to believe there will be this mad rush to get to Australia once the decision is announced. These people need to plan.

As it is, over the past two seasons, it has been the day before harvest commenced, before the local employment agency has been able to fill our requirement. To make matters worse, we are going to be looking for more harvest labour next January, as our production increases.

We also urge the government to keep the taxation level in line with the Australian counterparts. For one there is the confusion when it comes to doing the wages, and secondly there is the potential for conflict within the workforce, with some taking home more money than others for doing exactly the same work, just because of tax. It is essential for us to maintain a harmonious team.

We have been using backpacker labour for the past five years. In that time we have only had one backpacker that has come to Australia to earn money to take back to their home country. They are all here to earn money to travel and see Australia. The money stays in Australia, being circulated, creating more employment. In the long run the government is not missing out on income.

The other issue we would like the review to consider is the limit of six months a backpacker can remain employed with a single operation. It often takes time to train staff up. We get them up to full competency and they have to move on. Many would like to stay for 12 months, or return for another period after travel, if it was at all possible.

**Name**

Keith Bannerman

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 12:10:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This pending 'backpacker tax' is another insane idea from politicians who seem to have no connection with the real world - backpackers are as aussie as our fresh fruit and veg — neither of which we'd have without backpackers. It is ludicrous to imagine that they export their earnings - they party it all away right here in the local economy.

**Name**

Lyn Booth

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 1:39:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This submission makes no reference to the changes regarding overseas travelers being able to volunteer in programs such as Helpex, WWOOF and Workabout. As a host family for more than a decade, we have in the past, been able to sign off days towards second year visas as we live in a complying rural postcode. This is no longer possible under the new laws.

Our helpers have been young people looking for a safe, family environment where they can contribute, learn the language and access information to help them on their journey. Helpers live, work and share with our family. The experience has enriched our lives, business and that of our local community. The majority of hosts in our local network are small family businesses producing chemical free food for sale in our regional area. Our businesses benefit enormously from the involvement of overseas helpers, we are too small to be able to offer paid full time employment.

Please review the decision to allow small emerging businesses such as ours the ability to sign off second year visas. Since the change all local hosts have had nearly zero interest in visitations.

When they do find paid employment our helpers spend what they earn in Australia. The overwhelming majority are shocked by the cost of food, travel and basic necessities. They work to afford the travel, sightseeing and experiences.

The backpacker tax will and already has negatively affected young people choosing to come to Australia.

**Name**

Prue deVries

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 2:11:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a small hardworking farm that up until recently and with the help of the WWOOF program WWOOFers come, stay and voluntarily assist with our crops. We are too small to pay wages but love sharing what we do with international travellers and they in turn get to see a way of life that they may not already be accustomed to. Since the inception of new Visa regulations which came into affect in 2015, backpackers looking to have their 2nd year working holiday visa signed for voluntary labour is now not possible and we are at risk of losing our farm and income as we can no longer acquire help from travellers as they are required to look for paid work to get their 2nd year WHV signed. In effect this is actually putting increasing strain on large farms who continually need to turn people away and small regional farms across Australia such as ours are suffering. The system worked incredibly well in the past for many, many years, but we are now afraid about what is to come having to ourselves look for outside full time employment away from our farm to support ourselves. Prior to the changes we had the help we needed for harvesting and managing our organic crops, but not anymore, we now hardly receive any inquiries from backpackers.

**Name**

Fiona Rossiter

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 2:26:14 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I think its a disgrace what this new government has done. We have had in excess of 300 volunteers who have come to work with us in a voluntary capacity. They've loved the time spent with us and made specific comment on how nice it was to be away from the busy hustle and bussell of the city. They have made many friendships, helped out of there own back seniors who need a hand and helped with community events.

They never ask for money because they believe the swap for accommodation and food is fair and in exchange for second year visa sign off. We have tried the new payment system once and found it very difficult to support as a small family business. Needless to say we have scrapped it and wont be using it again.

Our business has been effected by having less volunteers now and I know of many farmers and other families who are feeling the pain because we can no longer depend on 2nd year visa volunteers to come in and help us support our industry. Neither can we find the extra money to pay people when you don't have the man power or money to do it the governments way.

Our volunteers that come for short stays say how much they hate Australia for what they have done with the 2nd year visa sign off and now apparently government is making International people pay money to be here.

They tell us that there are few people who come to Australia any more. Tasmania has become the chosen place because their government does care and does give a dam!

Any way we will just potter on and watch the demise of the new government over time. It will happen because of this foolish decision to take 2nd year visa sign off away from small business owners in exchange for basic living needs.

**Name**

Paul Rossiter

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 2:37:44 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Since government took away the volunteer 2nd year visa sign off from country people using the exchange of board and meals there has been a dramatic loss to us as small business holders. We believe government have got it wrong and statistics will show the loss of International visitors now coming to rural and remote areas.

**Name**

Mariette Joubert

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 2:54:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

New Life Industries (NVA) Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our business don't make use of backpackers at all.



**Name**

Jan Slee

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 5:30:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

As an employer who takes out the 32.5% tax and pays the super to backpackers, I am amazed how many backpackers who come to work for us and who have already been working in Australia do not have a super account. When they leave immigration should be able to check that the backpackers employers have paid them correctly and paid them Super. On the other hand we would prefer a straight tax for backpackers and no super so we don't have to set them up in the clearing house for them to only get it back, senseless. Try and streamline it. Backpackers work in the regional areas where Australians wont. We have been looking for 9 months for full time employee paying well above with all the perks. So do not let the unions say backpackers are taking jobs from Australians, because Aussies don't like working and not in regional areas.

**Name**

George Mills

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 7:03:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Panshanger Estate

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As all Australians pay the same rate of tax if working for wages, why would we make back packers pay a higher rate ??

It could be argued that back packers pay a lower rate of tax to enable them to spend more in the community.

**Name**

Maree Harvey

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 8:40:08 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Glenburn Orchards

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The farmers need the pickers to ensure their crops are harvested in the best possible time frames for quality

These pickers come to our country for many reasons. Sadly their circumstances and economic climate in their countries are worse than ours.

they allow our rural communities and business to sustain as money goes back into our town.

We need them so let's not make it less worthwhile for them. If they don't come the impact is detrimental to Tasmanian agriculture and quality of the produce will suffer because we will not have the capacity to get the volumes of fruit off at the critical time. The quality of Tasmanian produce will suffer. This will snowball to our alliance all around the world. We need to make it easy for them stressless.

Government needs to get a better understanding of harvest season. Stop being rigid & ignorant become realistic as to what is happening and what is needed to support agriculture in Tasmania and that is "when the fruit is ready or the weather is detrimental to the harvest we need back packer immediately or else we lose our crop and business.

Sometimes I have many backpacker wanting work I give work to them to get my crop off putting another 30 up to 120 on. they work hard & do long hours of contract work.

One season where we do not have enough picker will destroy our business financially because of the impact on quantities and sales. Our life is hard enough agriculture is labour intensive please don't make our business not sustainable by this tax. Government needs to support agriculture & open their ignorant eyes to what is happening on ground level and what is needed

I don't believe the unemployed would have the fitness or the will to pick and harvest like these back-packers most do not perform on the same level & leave after a short time. This change over for our business and data entry and inductions and finding replacement is huge.

This tax is a show complete ignorance by the government and will destroy the future of agricultural harvest seasons in Australia creating an impact and a ripple effect that will eventually destroy business, ruin our reputation for quality due to the fact that we are unable to harvest our produce due to lack of seasonal employees and back packers and in effect destroy our alliances and reputation within our Australian markets and export countries.

Maree Harvey

**Name**

Chris Rutter

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 8:51:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We have a ten acre property. We attempt to be self sufficient. We are pensioners. We enjoy having WWOOF ers on our property. We were in a post code where their input on the property could be used towards a second year visa. We included them in all of our social activities, took them to the coast for bar-b-que's, even invited them to join our family for Christmas. We treated them much the same as our grown children and we still keep in touch with many of them. They love Australia, they envy our lifestyle ,they enjoy us as people and some wish that their parents could do the same. They spend money in our shops, camp sites , bus companies ,tourist venues etc. It is amazing how much territory they cover. Why would we want to make it unattractive for them to come here and all for a tax pittance. Certainly we should stamp out abuse of the WOOFER

concept and give them a method for lodging complaints against abuse. They are lovely kids, lets make them welcome.

**Name**

marcus burns

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 8:49:34 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our business is totally reliant on backpackers for seasonal harvest work. We do employ local workers for the duration of the year in part time and full time work. It takes us 12 months to grow our fruit and only have a window of 10 days to harvest a variety. WITH THE IMPENDING LOSS OF MAY AGRICULTURAL ENTITIES THE GAINS OF REVENUE FROM A TAX INCREASE WILL PALE COMPARED TO THE DECIMATION OF MANY BUSINESSES AFFECTED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY !

**Name**

Jean Clayton

**Date Lodged**

24 Aug 2016 11:06:41 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am retired and living alone on my rural property. I have relied on Woofers to support my work in natural resource management on a degraded agricultural property of hobby farm size, in clearing debris such as fallen logs, building rock walls and replanting native vegetation. Since the change in visa regulations the number of backpackers seeking a volunteer placement on my property has fallen from over 60 last year to only one so far this year. This has severely impacted on the work I can achieve. I do not consider that these volunteers were exploited as many had few skills or understandings about biodiversity and conservation but we're eager to learn, share projects and communicate to learn English. I provided practical help and language/cultural education working alongside Woofers at all times and signed off to support visa extension where this could be supported for genuine effort. I also provided very high levels of accommodation and living in my home, good food and use of my vehicle. I am also aware that other locals with small agribusiness enterprises such as growing raspberries or native plants in my area who took Woofers have been severely impacted.

**Name**

Steve Ince

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 2:32:41 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Kinglake Homestead P/l

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I was involved with the WWOOF organization and visa holders were volunteer workers. They were well rewarded in non cash ways, and many of my visitors would not have been physically capable of performing as paid horticultural workers in a commercial enterprise. These type of visitor are now excluded from the extended visa program. As a result my accommodation occupancy rate has dropped from about 50 nights a week to 3 nights a month. Most visitors have cash to spend and spend their earnings, they do not benefit from many Govt services like Medicare, they bring more money than they take from the economy, so should not be taxed more heavily than Australian workers. Of the hundreds of applicants that I have had over many years, I have only had four Australians request positions, and only two have actually stayed.

**Name**

Penny Domeney

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 7:11:44 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

MBuckley & PDomeney

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers travel across the globe to experience life in a country other than their own. They must take responsibility for their wellbeing because there is no (Australian) welfare system to support them during travel whilst in Australia. This motivation to experience the new, and to find work to maintain themselves, is missing more and more in Australian labour. Whilst our core team on the dairy farm has one Australian (out of 5), the backpackers we employ for temporary work make it possible for our farm to produce milk for the full season. If backpackers were to become as hard to find as reliable and motivated Australians are in rural farming, our business would have to downsize. The ripple effect to our local community would be significant - the farm turns over >\$2 million annually. A relative small proportion of this would leave Australia in the pockets of backpackers, the remainder staying in and around our region, but its the backpackers that make it possible to remain sustainable at our optimal production level.



**Name**

Mark Allanby

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 10:53:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

With out backpackers / working holiday makers , I would be unable to harvest & pack my cherry crop .

They are an invaluable part of my business . Very concerned this new tax proposal will deter this essential part of our seasonal work force.

**Name**

James McClymont

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 10:34:53 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Letter to John Cobb our local Federal member and his forwarding it to Barnaby Joyce's office.

James McClymont

Reply|

27/05/2015

Minister Barnaby Joyce (minister@maff.gov.au);

John Cobb MP (john.cobb.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

At the suggestion of your office staff in Tamworth I am forwarding you copy of the email I recently sent to Mr John Cobb for your consideration and comments, thank you in anticipation of you reading this.

Yours faithfully,

James McClymont.

Hi John,

Thought I must let you know what the effect will be to our Apple orchard with the proposed tax reforms to the backpackers salary.

As I often tell people that only for the backpackers we would not be able to carry on growing apples in this district, I feel that it is good for all of us as we get the fruit picked they get some travelling money to spend and Australia gets the GST.

I have been orcharding for fifty years and have seen many changes to our employee supply and over the last five years or so none of the older former regular pickers have applied for work and it has been only backpackers that have filled the void.

We rely on a contractor to arrange the backpackers and we pay them through him, I know that they are paid correctly as we tell them exactly what we are pay to the contractor for the work, everyone is happy.

If as your Government propose to tax the backpackers at from what I hear 30% or so from dollar one then I can tell you now that there will be a big shortage of workers for our industry and therefore more fruit unpicked.

If it is the proposal that this will encourage younger Australian workers to do the job, as the bloke says "your dreamin".

I would like to know now if you really intend to go ahead with this as I will start dozing out more apple trees so as not to spend any more money on growing fruit that I can't get picked.

Please let me know if this is just a 'gee up' as they say because you really can't be serious.

I don't often put pen to paper re political decisions, that shows how serious I feel about this one.

Regards, James McClymont.

**Name**

Glenn Simonds

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 9:08:00 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

GD'S Labour Hire P/L

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In our peak harvest season we employ about 100 foreign workers (small compared to sum), but they do the seasonal work that the Australian people will not even try to do or let alone do the job, foreign workers are extremely important to our business and more importantly our host employers rely on us to supply labour at peak times, if we had to rely on Australian workers the work would not get done. WE do have a core group of Australian workers who are invaluable to our business but to find an extra 100 Australian workers is impossible. IN relation to the superannuation I am of the understanding that superannuation was set up to help Australians financially when they retired, well, if we as employers have to pay superannuation for workers the workers should also contribute a small percentage each week they work, as far as foreign workers we should not pay any superannuation for them and they definitely should not be able to access this money when they leave the country. If we do not pay superannuation for the foreign workers it would be a cost saving to our host employers which would hopefully see reduction in the price of produce to the general public.

**Name**

Paul Dimmick

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 10:46:30 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Huon Bush Retreats Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We frequently have international travelers with us as Wwoofers (Willing Workers On Organic Farms). This is more than just employment, it is a cultural exchange. They live with us in our home and work with us in our business.

We do NOT engage Wwoofers because they are cheap. Most cost us the same amount in inefficiency and training as we gain in labour. However we consider it a great sharing experience for everyone involved. Everyone benefits.

They peak at the same time as our staff demands peak. This means that we are able to carry the base load with our long term, local, paid staff and then cover the peak demand with short term help from Wwoofers.

Most of our Wwoofers are seeking short term experiences. However some are looking for longer term stays and convert to temporary paid staff, either in our own business or other businesses that we refer them to. The wwoof period is equivalent to an apprenticeship or internship, where both parties assess suitability.

We believe that Wwoofers should be able to use the period they spend with us in a non-paid capacity as part of their 3 months eligibility for the 2nd year visa. It seems odd that in situations where they are extracting cash from the Australian economy, they can use that time, but when they are only contributing their labour, they are not allowed to use it. Sort of punishes people for contributing for free.

Most importantly, regional tourism is a seasonal business with extreme peaks. All local businesses have the same peak and there are insufficient locals wanting the work. Wwoofer availability peaks at the same time so is the perfect solution.

**Name**

Daryl Boardman

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 11:09:36 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Sunnyspot Packhouse Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I believe on the superannuation question that this money should go into a fund used to assist in infrastructure or something that Australia can benefit from. Backpackers being able to collect this when leaving just gives a boost to Bali or Thailand for example as they use this for the return holiday. Also why should these young people be able to receive the super when we have to have one foot in the grave before we get it. Re offering to Australians first we would love this to happen but reality is the aussies don't want to do this work and as my packing shed manager says next year we are only employing backpackers. This is due to the casual nature of the local workers who regularly let you down. This is very rare with the backpacker workforce. We will lose this essential resource if treasury look to go for this money grab. It will be killing the goose that laid the golden egg for the bush if it goes through.

**Name**

Marion Davis

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 11:19:11 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We run a small hobby farm & have been WWOOF Association Hosts for about 5 years.

We cannot afford to pay workers on our property but have had a great deal of WWOOF backpackers stay for 3 months to obtain their 2nd year Visa.

This has been a most rewarding experience for both us & the WWOOFers we have had staying with us as they get to experience Australian family life & be a part of our family for the time stayed with us.

WWOOFers will not be able to stay with us if they have to show pay slips for their 2nd Visa and so neither parties will be able to benefit from this.

**Name**

Keith Sawers

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 5:11:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Living in a tourist area and, also working in the Riverina, where I have met with fruit farmers, accommodation providers and back packers, I believe any tax on backpacker incomes will have an adverse effect on all concerned. The backpackers I have met say that they spend all income earned in Australia, on their accommodation and travel, which injects funds into regional economies and small businesses like hotels and motels, cafes, fuel outlets, and tourism. The farmers tell me that the local unemployed Australians are reluctant to take on the fruit picking work, and if they do, only last a few days. Being a small business operator I know how difficult and time consuming it is to manage the wages and taxation of employees, and this would be a problem to a family owned fruit farmer, who would probably need to engage accountants to handle the extra work, and this would reduce their profitability. If the backpackers are taxed, it will lead to less coming to Australia, and make it harder for farmers to operate, and make a profit. It will hurt regional Australian businesses, which are involved in tourist industries, and could lead to job losses in this sector.



**Name**

Peter Roth

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 12:11:12 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

They should pay a certain percentage of tax eg.15% and no refund when departing the country. No claiming the tax- free threshold. I object to superannuation for holiday working visas as this was introduced for Australians retirement fund. The working holiday-maker should not be able to claim there 9.5% superannuation when leaving the country, as they are receiving more money back in their pocket at the end of the day than the Australian doing the same job.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 12:13:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Backpackers working in regional areas such as Mildura can be ambassadors for the wider tourism business, promoting our destination to friends and family. Their spending also has a positive impact on the local economy.

**Name**

Nicole van Beuningen

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 1:07:27 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Tablelands Regional Council

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Q.3 Backpacker superannuation should be reviewed - they should not be paid superannuation as an extra cost to business.

Q.4 If tax is going to a central repository, then that is potentially taking funds away from regions where the money would have been spent as part of working holiday makers visitation.

**Name**

Ingrid Roth

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 3:24:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

the time cost of setting up superannuation for a backpacker doing short term fruit picking work is frequently higher than the actual superannuation to be paid. Especially as many of them don't have super accounts, and certainly don't value it.

Collecting this foreign worker superannuation as government revenue via a simplified "TFN" based system in the Super Clearing House would save employers a big administrative burden - and the 9.5-12% could be offset against the proposed 32% tax rate - bringing the backpacker tax down to 20% - so they have the \$ to spend in Australia not when they leave by collecting superannuation

**Name**

James Hansen

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 8:54:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This is an edited copy of a letter I sent to my local member Keith Pitt, back in May.

Hi Keith,

After reading this mornings Australian newspaper's article on how the backpacker tax will stay in this years budget I felt compelled to send you this.

When I heard of this tax ( in the field, from my backpackers in January) I told them that it was probably just a thought bubble and there was no way this side of politics would enact something so obviously flawed, counterproductive, and unfair - I was sure that this madness would get knocked on the head like it deserved, but apparently not so here goes :-

I am a farmer that has been employing backpackers for over 20 years and am usually swamped with forms to fill out for their 2nd year visa applications. This year though, it was announced that this tax would be levied while my lychee season was on, I had 20 backpackers working for me, all on their first year here - normally I would do second year apps for everyone, this year I did 5, and those were just covering their bases - they all said there was no way they were coming here to have 1/3 of their money taken.

ALL of them Keith.

If this is repeated in workplaces around the country then the scrawled on napkin that had the maths for this policy on it can be thrown straight in the bin because you are projecting your revenue based on the past - they will not come, and we desperately need them too. Where else can you get university and trade qualified people to pick fruit? In my work force last year I had people with degrees in chemistry, physics, a CNC machinist and a guy that builds nuclear power plants in France, just to name a few. I had an actual rocket scientist work for me a few years back! These kids are virtually all smarter than me and have a great work ethic - without them you will see growers like me simply stop growing the labour intensive crops and move to mechanically harvested produce. Less money for the government, less money for my home town, less food for everyone. There is no winner in this policy Keith, certainly not the budget.

I think it is entirely reasonable that the 13% that we currently take is non refundable but 33% is ridiculous. Did they get the Labour Party to consult for this? Because it stinks of one of their ideas. Conservatives know ( I thought), that by reducing taxes you increase your take as people adjust their behavior to what is laid in front of them. Lower taxes means people are more willing to work to earn more as they will keep more of it, and companies will move here for a favorable tax environment, employment wins, tax receipt wins, productivity wins.

Higher taxes does the opposite. I don't mind taking a hit for something sensible but this lunacy will not result in any meaningful longterm budget benefit and will almost certainly have a devastating effect in rural communities around the country.

I can't believe a farmer has to point this out, but if you try to take that much of their pay then THEY WILL STOP COMING! There is about 180 other free countries that they can travel to if they want. Yes, we have a very high wage in comparison to other countries, but they all know that we also have a very high cost of living to go with it. I know for sure that 2 of the kids working for me have changed their plans to do the second year in Canada, 2 just went home and at least 2 have plans to go to New Zealand ( I don't suppose there is any constitutional way we could just give the governing over to John Keys for a while just to see how he goes is there? The man is running a budget surplus in a county whose main export is milk!)

In summary,

Pros :- a surge to government coffers that is almost certainly to be wildly overestimated

Cons :- farmers all over the country unable to harvest their crops decide to no longer grow them, tourist and accomodation providers going broke, regional economies losing a vital income source, not to mention the colour,interest and vibrancy that these kids bring to our communities.

But I digress, I know you would not have been a supporter of this Keith and I imagine the case has been well argued. Please add this letter to what I can only assume is a mountain of hugely disappointed and disillusioned constituents

Regards.

Jamie Hansen.

Ps there was a question about the backpackers accessing their super after they leave. Of course they should be able to but wouldn't it be smarter to let them have it while they are still here and give them a chance to spend it here instead of another country?

But hey, what would I know, I'm just a farmer.

Jamie and Sue Hansen

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Name**

Liz Robson

**Date Lodged**

25 Aug 2016 9:40:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Merricks Creek Organics

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a small farm operator with a passion for organics, it has been our pleasure to share and teach organic farming methods to travellers both from within Australia and from overseas. We can only do this in exchange for labour and accommodation as we cannot afford to pay wages and do not have the time to manage wage processing and tax requirements. Since the changes in the requirements have commenced there have been very few applications to WWOOF at our farm. This means that we have planned to produce only as much as we are able ourselves to manage as we are no longer able to utilise the WWOOFER program. We understand that this is true from other farms in our area. This of course means that there are less flow on effects for our local shops and tourism in our area.

**Name**

Duncan Ferrier

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 9:28:31 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our stonefruit orchard employs 2 Australians permanently and relies on working holiday makers for a further 16 employees during the four months of harvest. The short peak labour demand periods of maybe 2 weeks within this time suit casual employment of working travellers rather than Australians or others looking for longer term employment.

Without the opportunity to directly employ a flexible and mobile workforce our business will be severely disadvantaged.

We believe the compromise solution including 19% tax offered by NFF and others would retain our competitive position as a destination for working holiday makers.



**Name**

Camille Veron

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 10:50:05 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This is a shame to see that the Australian government is spending precious money for a consulting agency to lead this weak survey. We think we have the chance to give our opinion until we read the questions : Q2 'Backpackers should pay at least some tax while in Australia.' yes all backpackers pay some tax everytime they buy something through GST, vehicle registration, even before they arrive with the expensive cost of the WHV. Then they pay the same amount of tax than an Australian, based on their annual revenue. So what is the question about? You can only agree or disagree without clarifying its meaning, allowing a free interpretation of your answer. Q3 'Working holiday-makers should be able to access their superannuation when they depart Australia.' Once again it needs clarification. Are we talking about suppressing the superannuation for WHV holders? Or should the employer still pay for the super to a fund that cannot be claimed by the employee? Q8&10 are purely demagogical: 'The labour hire industry is sufficiently regulated with respect to working holiday-makers.' 'I am aware of government programmes to help people in seasonal and temporary jobs.' It seems that the government doesn't really need the opinion or ideas of the population involved but rather play some populist act with a survey that is already oriented. I'm soooo disappointed...

**Name**

Julia McKay

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 10:40:21 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a Wwoof Host, I used to be able to sign a 2nd Year Working Visa form stating postcode and ABN in respect of volunteers helping on my small dairy farm. Wwoof positions at my farm were in great demand because of the accommodation provided, assistance with English conversation (and written English), experience in sustainable agriculture, visits to Canberra, nearby National Parks and introductions to paying jobs amongst my friends and contacts. My wwoofers learned how to milk cows, drive tractors, seed pastures, renovate fencing and many other farming duties. As a single woman, I enjoyed the company of young travellers and they enjoyed my knowledge of farming and Australian culture.

Since the changes to 2nd Working Visa rules the flow of travellers has dwindled to a trickle. I am now obliged to pay tax and superannuation on the wages I provide (which are largely offset by my costs of training, board and lodgings, Wifi, pay TV, transport etc). In the past, when backpackers or wwoofers stayed over a year, they were eligible to claim their tax and superannuation back, as most did not earn enough to exceed the Tax Free Threshold. As a result, they spent this money here, in Australia, travelling around and seeing the sights. The money stayed in Australia rather than being repatriated to their homeland.

Wwoofers and backpackers are welcomed in New Zealand, Japan, Canada, Tawan, Austria,, Korea, Germany, Holland, France, Italy etc and we in Australia are now discouraging the interplay between young people from all over the world and small farmers like myself. Australian farmers need these young workers and in turn, we give them an experience they would never get without paying dearly for it.

**Name**

Francine chanovre

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 6:41:25 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have tried to employ Australian workers many times but only seem to get laxy alcoholic drug lying addicts bludging trouble makers who do nothing but bullshit

Give me a overseas workers please

**Name**

Daniel Nicoletti

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 7:18:52 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Nicoletti Orchards

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As the current Owner/Manager of our third generation family Apple growing business, I am always needing labour help to get certain jobs done. Unfortunately I am constantly let down and disappointed with local Australians. I will always try to employ an Australian first, hoping they will settle into the job for a long period. This will save me retraining people constantly. Unfortunately the majority of local Australians aren't interested in 'Farm Jobs'. We need the Overseas Backpackers to continue. I believe Taxing backpackers at 15 or 20% would be fair, 32.5% is unexceptable and will cause major flow on effects for Australia's economy. Please help Australian Small Businesses, not hinder.

**Name**

Jennifer Flegler

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 1:18:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Superannuation should be forfeited to overseas workers as we should not be required to look after non Australian citizens. It would be a windfall for the government.

**Name**

Michael Bartlett

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 12:53:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Global Domes Ltd

**Country**

NEW ZEALAND

**Written Submission**

This decision is a unmitigated disaster and more research should have been conducted before taking this action. Crops are going to be left unharvested as was the case before the inducement to travelers was brought in. Does the government not understand that there is a real world outside of parliament house.

**Name**

Evan Bradshaw

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 5:35:54 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Zenan Pty Ltd atft Bradshaw family trust t/a Redgum Village

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In Regional Australia backpackers do not qualify for visa extensions (as in the 88 days for a second visa) in the hospitality industry.

We are always seeking short-term employees over weekends and evenings in our accommodation / restaurant business. Locals just don't want to work weekends.

With only 200 local people in town and backpackers passing through all the time, we cannot secure them for part time or for 3 months due to the requirement for an extended visa.

This so-called 32% tax will only make it worse.

Have attached a report on this matter, it's only one page.

**Name**

Fiona Davies

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 5:04:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It makes no sense to tax backpackers as whatever they earn in Australia is spent in the Australian economy - they do not go home with money generally. A tax will only discourage backpackers and lead to a lower contribution overall to the Australian economy.



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 7:12:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

these workers are on low pay, contributing to the local (often rural) economy by supporting local shops and accommodation. They often enhance our outlook and culture with their diversity. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

**Name**

Nicole Stephens

**Date Lodged**

26 Aug 2016 10:28:07 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Would definitely hire local staff whenever possible however it is difficult to do this in the hospitality industry due to many factors usually due to family factors and not being home in the evenings. We operate a hotel in the country however we are not able to sign off on their second year which makes it difficult. This law of only hospitality above the tropic of capricorn should be relaxed as unfair to other regional hotels. I feel that employers should still pay a superannuation percentage so we do not become prejudice to hire backpackers however the backpacker should not be entitled to it and this money retained by the government to use possibly for additional Australian Retirement funding.

**Name**

Simon Hill

**Date Lodged**

27 Aug 2016 3:00:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

CMH Agri Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Yes they were taking advantage of the poorly written tax file declaration form and claiming resident status to gain tax free threshold.

The loop-hole is from an over complicated tax system.

Propose flat 19c tax.

It is said that WHM use public services, but in my experience it is user pays.

Hospital visits are paid, there is no medicare benefit.

I and everyone I know in the industry cannot source suitable workers willing to work in remote areas. (not regional, remote rural )

The skill set required is also unavailable anywhere else.

I have the choice between tertiary educated workers from abroad at the same price as totally unskilled that is if I can find an Australian.

Why should Australian farms have to work with, risk, & compete (unsubsidised) on the world platform whilst suffering the skill set gap that is readily available from WHM.

**Name**

therese davis

**Date Lodged**

27 Aug 2016 11:45:44 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

They fill a need for temporary workers for a short time twice a year but we extend the employment to improve their skills and suit their extended visa requirement. 100% of those employed, 3 per session, over the last three years have gone on to spend their earnings travelling within Australia. The increase in taxation would mean they ended up with so little money it would not be worth the heavy work over their 88 days under harsh climatic conditions in an extremely isolated environment. As it is they enjoy the novelty of their situation but are very glad to see the lights of town by the end of their session. We enjoy having them and they enjoy seeing a part of Australia that not many get to visit. To increase their taxation would be a serious disincentive as they would get such a small reward

. They are constantly in touch with other backpackers hence others would not choose Australia and their numbers would decline, thus the plan to increase revenue for the Australian government by increasing their tax is seriously flawed, and leaves us without strong young people to help with sheep handling at musters

**Name**

Leon Schroeder

**Date Lodged**

27 Aug 2016 4:05:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a small grower and a wwoof host we cannot afford to pay full wages but have room and ample food to accommodate anyone who is willing to accept these in return for some hours of work such as wwoofing. Our business has had to down size ( since the changes to 2nd visa requirements) to what I can handle myself - thereby reducing our income. We have experienced both the willing, dedicated wwoofer who wishes to experience Australian life outside of the metropolitan and the not so willing ones. Those who want to wwoof for the experiences gained are in the most part good workers who will contribute to the economy and love Australia for its belief that everyone has a fair go and they don't mind paying their way or taxes if they are reasonable. Australia offers so much and is unique in so many ways DON'T made it world renowned for the wrong reasons. Everyone will all suffer from the decline of overseas visitors not just the wwoofing family.

**Name**

Lisa Mahon

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 8:55:08 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Bromley Organics

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Bromley Organics has been significantly impacted by the decision to remove the WWOOF scheme as a valid work regime for the extension of working holiday visa's. We have structured our business to use WWOOFers for farm labour. For the last eighteen years we have had WWOOFers come and stay on the farm and this has been a wonderful scheme. The WWOOFers are treated like one of the family and are included in off farm activities. They increase productivity on the farm, and contribute to the local economy. While they are staying with us, we make sure that they get to participate in tourism activities and local community activities. Nearly all of the WWOOFers stayed for a three month duration, so they could access their visa extension. This gave us the opportunity to train them. Prior to the introduction of the visa extension scheme, most WWOOFers only stayed a couple of weeks. Since the removal of the WWOOF qualifying for the extension we have had a big drop in enquiries and have been unable to attract WWOOFers to the farm. We can replace WWOOFers with paid workers, except it is significantly more expensive and we have reduced production area to keep our costs down. Overall there has been over a 60% reduction in the number of WWOOFers coming to Australia because of the change in the working holiday visa's over the last 12 months, so many other businesses like ours would be similarly affected by the short sighted change in policy. I do not believe the WWOOF scheme had the same problems of labour exploitation that other backpackers experienced with the dodgy labour contractors.

**Name**

George Smiley

**Date Lodged**

27 Aug 2016 10:26:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The attached document was published on my blog [georgesmileyblog.blogspot.com](http://georgesmileyblog.blogspot.com) and is a small part of my experience working all over Australia when I was here on a 1 year holiday back in the 'seventies that stretched to two. I have picked tomatoes in Bowen, bananas in Tully, shoveled black piles of concentrate in the searing heat at the Queensland Nickel refinery in Yabulu and worked on construction all over, paying taxes like everybody else.

**Name**

Philip Gravett

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 7:32:47 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Rustlers Manjimup

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The tax file number and working visa number should be linked for ease of employment, so the need for labour hire companies is diminished.

Superannuation should be paid as wages, so the money is spent in Australia. The laws involving superannuation are complex and language problems occur getting information from employees. The money should be taxed and available to spend in Australia which would greatly improve employment and opportunities in other areas.

The majority of our workers left Aust when they believed they were going to be taxed at 32.5% from the 1/7/2016.

This issue needs to be resolved immediately as not enough workers will be available to harvest the next seasons crop as a lot of young Australians are lazy and consider it beneath them to work in agriculture. Most of Manjimup residents are older or social welfare recipients as our young have moved to the city or are back packing overseas.

The agriculture industry in Manjimup requires about 700 seasonal workers.

A flat tax rate of 15% on wages including super would be fair to all.



**Name**

Keith roberts

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 2:46:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our tourism Industry in Airlie Beach and The Whitsunday Islands, is suffering. We are seeing a crash in numbers right now..Backpackers are saying we are to dear and if the we have to pay more taxes than an Australian then this is discriminatory and they have said we will tell others on Social Media and boycott Australia.

This tax in first was just a dumb idea. Farmers wont have workers, tourism operators wont have clients

Please change this and change it soon before the banks take our houses, our tour boats and our shops close..

Keith Roberts

**Name**

Alain Blin

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 3:06:48 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers should be able to work and claim their tax like any other Australian workers

How ever I do not believe that Farmers have the interest of the Backpackers in mind when they want stop the change to the backpacker tax

if they really cared they would not use contractors to bypass the state wages and regulations laws and abused their workers

Ie i know of a few who can not get their group certificate 2 months after the end of the financial year

Or are forced to live on the working site if they want the job and are charge an exorbitant rent in derelict housing which they have to share with a large number of friend in condition that would not be allowed to any other would be landlords .....Australia is very fast at judging country like China for using underpaid workers but close its eyes when it is done here ..... shame shame shame

**Name**

Clinton Forster

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 4:51:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If this Tax goes ahead it will have a serious effect on the farming industry and also the tourism industry. Backpackers earn their money here and then spend their money here which is important. They also come back when they're older and have more money to show their children where they did their gap year. This will all be affected if this tax passes.

**Name**

Alison Ball

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 6:11:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Under the WWOOFF scheme we have hosted nearly 50 young overseas travellers since 2013. Myself aged 79 years and unable to pay for help, have had invaluable assistance from them on our 8 acres. They have all gained many skills and they had an equally valuable introduction to Australian life and an ordinary Aussie family. Their language skills vastly improved while at our place and that set them up for further work in Australia. The move to disallow voluntary work in the country begun by Mr Abbott and not cancelled by the Turnbull government has completely killed off what was a wonderful scheme run by the WWOOF organization. Any Aussie person who has supposedly been interested in such a bed and board in exchange for some work have been disasters. We have tried some- drug addicts, alcoholics and the just plain useless!

**Name**

Brett Flemming

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 7:54:08 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Bungalow Bay Koala Village

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Regional Australia will suffer if this tax is implemented, farmers will lack resources when crops are ready. All towns will loose accommodation, miscellaneous spend. Post farm spending will suffer in tourism. Most importantly Australian workers will not fill these roles if they are lost....

**Name**

Darrell Munro

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 9:47:28 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Diana Robb

**Date Lodged**

28 Aug 2016 10:23:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have hosted young working holiday visa travellers who have volunteered to work on my farm under the WWOOF program. These people were very motivated to do their 3 months of rural work as a means of achieving their second year visa, not everyone has the stamina to work professionally as a farm labourer, some people are just not fit enough for such vigorous and heavy work, or do not have the stamina to work 8 hours per day in the hot Australian sun to harvest fruit. This should not preclude them from working in a rural environment, learning about agriculture and improving their language skills.

The value of volunteering is not monetary, it is more cultural, but despite that my small farm has benefitted from the labour of the overseas visitors and they have experienced a new way of life and learned new skills in return. Many of these volunteers would like to make their homes in Australia and contribute to the economy in the future. If the voluntary work is not recognised as making the effort to live in the regions we will lose these people in the future.

**Name**

Lorraine Wilson

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 6:30:44 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We would prefer to hire locals, however years of attempting that process to getting our citrus picked has gone from doable 30 years ago to almost impossible today with a series of 1 or 2 days of work employees. We know, and have been told, that we would do much better without all the accompanying paperwork - tax file numbers, Worker's Comp return, Super Guarantee compliance but that is now and never will be our way of doing business! We don't take a lot of tax as our juice processor restricts our productivity but when we are working flat out, then the correct tax is taken. In our experience, the backpackers we have hired have spent their earnings in Australia. Do we imagine they take money home with them?

We know that we will NOT be able to harvest our citrus if the backpacker tax eventuates and while we have the current welfare system which encourages people to tick off jobs applied for to claim unemployment.

We cannot believe that farmers will, again, be unfairly victimised by a government which claims to be supporting small business.



**Name**

Joanna Burnet

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 7:26:32 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We have been welcoming backpackers to our farm for 25 years. Since the 32.5% rate came in during the period of the Labour Government it has been used by many of the employers using our backpackers for work BUT they have still been able to go to the tax back people to get their money back because they give them an address in Sydney. A couple of years ago tax claim was knocked back when it was alleged the backpacker lived in a unit in Sydney and was working in Julia Creek. This is idiotic. Backpackers who work in the cities, stay six months at one address can legally, at present, take the tax free threshold - but these are the people who take the jobs that Australians want.

Australians do not want to work in the bush therefore the need for backpackers there is much higher. I think we have to admit that the tax back companies have been rorting the tax system for some years and go on 'bended knee' to the Government to make our case.

Backpackers do not mind paying tax, but particularly the city ones have got used to the 'entitlement' of a threshold.

In order to keep backpackers coming to Australia we should have a special rate of tax for those working in agriculture in the bush - it should also be available for Australians working in the bush IF they want it. This should be something like 15% and not claimable.

At present backpackers pay almost no tax because they can claim it all back even if not really resident anywhere.

I would like to see the Residence level at 2 years, which would stop the foreign workers in the cities paying nothing and taking jobs from Australians and 15% unclaimable tax for all those working in agriculture in the bush. This also might encourage some of these workers out of the city much sooner BUT it would mean that they had less disposable income to spend in the tourist industry.

Think how much money this would save the Government - they would not need a tax claim department for all these claims - the industry would be regulated and they would collect a lot of tax where currently they have a net of nothing.

We employ a very few backpackers ourselves, but the current rate of 32.5% is way too high.

Just a side note - those backpackers who are getting ABNs are probably only paying 10% GST - if anything.

**Name**

Gabrielle Shaw

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 10:49:55 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Whitsundays Sailing Adventures

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australia needs to be competitive next to our neighbouring countries in regards to taxing WHV, currently the cost of the visa is reaching an all time high along with this proposed tax we are already seeing a decline in forward bookings from this market. Yes something does need to change, maybe instead of giving superannuation this money could be given to Tourism Australia to promote youth tourism and the WHV to international travellers, if we got rid of Super then what will happen is that employers will not employ Australians as it would be cheaper to employ a backpacker. There also needs to be something in place where the tax refund gets spent in Australia, a lot of Asian countries send their young over to work and the money gets sent straight back home with nothing coming back to the economy.

With the genuine backpackers we are also seeing these kids getting ripped off by regional farmers, in Bowen (QLD) there are houses that take 13 in a 3 bedroom home and they are charged \$150+ a week and then food etc. on top of that. Some also do not get an hourly rate but get paid by the bin etc.

International travellers are a big part of our business and we are more than happy to help in anyway not to lose it.

**Name**

Aaron Imming

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 12:15:14 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

NEW ZEALAND

**Written Submission**

The Australian government should introduce a third working holiday visa that former second working holiday makers can buy for \$1000, this third working holiday visa will prove to be extremely popular and help the government make not only money with the \$1000 fee that thousands of backpackers are more than willing to pay, but also with the money that backpackers earn and spend in that extra year in Australia.

**Name**

Al Grundy

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 9:41:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Explore Whitsundays

**Country**

**Written Submission**

- 1) Working Holiday Makers are not taking jobs from Aussies, as young Aussies are overseas on reciprocal arrangements. (we need to clearly communicate this message as part of this debate)
- 2) Rather than paying out the superannuation contribution once the international workers are about to leave Australia, we should consider having Aussies companies pay the superannuation contribution which would go to Working Holiday Makers into a fund which is used to promote Australian Tourism.

**Name**

Richard Clark

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 9:18:49 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

The Westerway Raspberry Farm

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

On reflection, I do not think that I provided enough information about our business or why I believe the proposed changes to the system will be to the detriment of the horticultural industry and regional Tasmania in general.

Our farm employs up to 120 seasonal employees each December and January, 40 of which are WHV holders. They are young, motivated, and live and stay on the farm. The pool of Australian residents who are willing and able to perform seasonal work for such a brief period of time is not sufficient to fulfill the labour requirements of Tasmania's rapidly growing horticultural sector.

A number of my WHV employees in the summer 2015/16 suggested to me that they would not pursue a second year visa as they had heard of the proposed increase to the tax to 32.5% on all earnings. They felt this was prohibitively high. I also believe the softer Australian Dollar means that when they convert their expected Australian after tax earnings, it is no longer sufficiently high to warrant staying in Australia rather than returning home. I do not know enough about Canadian and NZ policies, but this proposed change would surely reduce Australia's attractiveness as a working holiday destination in comparison to our competitors. This is at a time when Tasmania especially requires additional sources of seasonal labour to meet the rapid growth in the cherry, berry, wine and general horticultural sector.

These WHV workers also spend their earnings in the local community. I would prefer they had a larger share of their earnings (say 81%) while they are working and traveling in Australia as opposed to when they leave the country. The current system, whereby WHV workers claim back their tax and superannuation once they have left Australia, results in a large leakage of funds from the Australian economy. Much better to tax WHV workers less so they have more finances to fund their Australian experience and travel, but not allow them to claim back taxes, and for the superannuation that must be paid by employers to be paid into an ATO/Australian Government account.

I will continue to favour and prioritise people from our local area. It is good for the community and these people return year in, year out, or go on to find other productive roles in the wider economy. But I reiterate that there are insufficient Australian residents living in areas where large seasonal employment opportunities exist, and I have appreciated the WHV program to date which has alleviated this imbalance.

**Name**

Greg Douglas

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 11:31:44 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Thirsty Cow Incorporated

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

So Many of the thousands we assist were benefiting from what we thought was one of the greatest things that the fed govt have done for farmers. working tourists having to do 88 days in rural Australia to be eligible for a second 12 months working visa extension.

We used to take those that had a poor grasp of English and help them with their communication skills, so when they finished their time here they could communicate and most of them are now life long friends and come back to visit when they can to catch up such a wonderful thing for ethnical integration. They get to see real Australians and live with them and experience so many things that will give them a better understanding of our way of life in rural Australia

To shut down the scheme makes no sense and will put those who have been being assisted under more hardship and they feel they have been punished by the govt for no good reason.

We don't know the reason but it has been suggested that some were exploiting the tourists and if this were the case why could they not just prosecute the offenders and not let them off scott free and punish all the good people that were doing the right thing.

It makes no sense it is like banning marriage because there are a few that manage to have problems in the institution of marriage ??????

We would like you to ask the Immigration Minister to allow volunteering with not for profit charities in rural areas to be an eligible activity for the 2nd year Working Holiday Visa as we struggle with volunteers to assist us help Primary Producers survive various natural disasters.

It would be excellent to have this as a source of assistance to enable us to be of more help.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely

Greg Douglas

C.E.O. Thirsty Cow Inc.

Not For Profit Charitable Institutions

Ph. 1300 841140      [www.thirstycow.org](http://www.thirstycow.org)

**Name**

Libby

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 12:58:24 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Mumford Farms Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

From our perspective, we employ locals and working holiday visa holders. Its not that locals don't want to do the work necessarily, theres just not enough locals available when harvest begins making working holiday makers important. It's also beneficial for us that working holiday visa holders are required to meet conditions of regional employment to obtain a second year visa. This gives us a commitment from the working holiday visa holders for a minimum of three months. In that time, they are spending locally and once they're off they're travelling around Australia spending their money and we get many returning for the following season. As far as treatment of working holiday visa holders, they are working just like everyone else, and should be treated the same or marginally different. The significant change that is proposed with the higher tax rate disadvantages everyone for little or no gain when everything is considered.

Regards, Libby

**Name**

Margaret Day

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 12:34:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As an industry we need to focus on:-

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.



- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Jake Bergquist

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 1:36:50 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This is not a simple "should they pay tax or not". WHV holders already pay GST on all goods and services they purchase throughout their time living, working and travelling in Australia. the money they spend with Australian businesses is far more important and a larger amount than the tax we are looking at grabbing. They also likely spend a lot of their tax return in Australia, through Australian businesses.

**Name**

Chris Harrison

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 2:52:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Travel Maps Australia Pty Ltd, trading as THE WORD and thebyte.com.au

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am Editor of The Byte (thebyte.com.au) and have so far written or edited 96 published articles on the so called 'backpacker tax'. Some are media releases, some are articles sourced from other media and reposted verbatim or embellished with our opinions. Others are research pieces of our own which show the detriment that this policy will bring to regional and rural Australia.

Its a proven fallacy that this policy will raise \$540m (and I think the government knows that now).

The Byte is the voice of the 'backpacker tourism trade sector' in Australia. We are small and so its a small voice, but we represent 100s of small to medium size businesses who all contribute taxes and together employ 1000s of Australians and working holiday makers. We watch, comment where we can and generally worry about what consideration our sector is being given.

The ATO and the Treasury thought they had a quick fix to a small problem, little did they realise the underlying issue was much greater. Youth tourism in this country makes a much larger contribution than most commentators give it credit. Australian youth tourism WAS what most other countries aspired to create. Its a chicken that been laying golden eggs this country for over 40 years and its about to be destroyed. Many many of our international competitors are begging that this tax is implemented, don't give them that satisfaction.

Question that?

Finally, there is a suggestion that Working Holiday Makers don't pay tax. For the purpose of this commentary I am going to lump taxes, duties, charges and fees into one pot. Afterall it all ends up in one government's pot or another doesn't it?

Working Holiday Maker visa fee - \$440

Taxes paid to airlines for ticket to Australia (sometimes with an Australian airline, sometimes not, so lets say 50% reduced) - \$200

Passenger movement charge - \$49

GST on spending in Australia (fuel, accommodation etc) - \$1300 (its said WHM spend \$13000 in Australia / GST rate 10%)

So that's about \$2000 in taxes straightaway.

Also to be considered:

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

- how many WHMs transfer to a 457 visa and eventually PR and citizenship? 1000s
- how many WHMs have visiting friends and family who make a contribution to Australian tourism but are not counted here? 1000s
- And isn't the working holiday visa reciprocal? and so have follow on issues with Australians in other countries
- And isn't the working holiday visa programme meant to be about 'cultural exchange' and less about \$\$\$ made? Afterall they are a low-earning group who would be classed as living below the poverty line if this tax was implemented.
- many are comparing WHMs with Australians, but the latter has access to so much more government support, WHMs are here on their own

Enough from me, I am here ( [REDACTED] ) should someone wish to talk to the only Australian Backpacker & Youth Tourism sector media with a true voice on this subject.

Kind regards

Chris Harrison

Editor of The Byte

**Name**

Derek Fisher

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 2:09:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

We are blueberry growers and are entirely dependent on backpackers to hand pick our crop. Our farm is isolated with the nearest small country town 40 km away. It has been impossible to find local workers for this menial task. This year we will employ about 120 pickers at the peak of the season, increasing to +200 next year.

The government should be encouraging backpackers to come not the opposite.

**Name**

carl terrey

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 2:56:49 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday makers just wont come to destinations like Tasmania if a substantial tax is imposed, because of the other costs and inconveniences of coming here, it will just not be worthwhile for them.

We have belonged to the HelpX organization, which has been mutually beneficial better than 90% of the time over many years, and have made several long term friendships. The short term holiday help from young enthusiastic helpers has been essential at critical times for our cut flower business, as we are now in our 70's, and fear will have to close down under the proposed new rules.

**Name**

Susanne Trott

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 2:38:05 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Strongly disagree with charging Back Packers Tax at 32.5 %

Charge a fair amount of Tax and then keep their Super Contributions in Australia.

**Name**

Margaret Makewell

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 3:19:12 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Farming communities cannot survive without help from overseas working tourists. The quality of some fruits has already declined because they can't cope without these workers. In spite of high unemployment in country areas, locals are just not prepared to do the hard yards. The backpacker tax needs to be wound back to former levels or they will go to other countries that treat them better.



**Name**

Sean Arkininstall

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 3:15:34 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Victorian Citrus Farms PTY LTD

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In relation to my answer at 7 - We have spent 4 weeks advertising in the local paper and also approached a local Apprenticeship Agency and have had an extremely low response, almost none. We can not find any local kids that want to work and be prepared to get dirty for a good days pay. It is very worrying for myself and my company as the local kids have it way too easy with regard to obtaining benefits from the government which in turn allows them not to work in horticulture or any other job for that matter. We rely on backpackers to do the work that our local kids wont, for example simple tasks like Potting plants, weeding moving plants around my nursery and general nursery work.

Without our backpackers, which last year over the 12 months we hired 40 approx. we wouldn't have been able to produce the citrus and avocado trees that our local growers ordered which flows down the line all the way to revenue for the Australian Gov, the effect from just my company of not having a workforce that actually wants to work would impact a range of my suppliers. It would effect my plastic pots supplier which inturn effects his supplier of the raw plastic beads he purchases, our chemical suppliers, fertiliser suppliers, potting mix company, label company, local trades like plumbers and electricians that over the past 3 years would equate to about 150K, my greenhouse builder which we have spent 800K with would see us expand and his flow chart then rolls down to steel suppliers etc. I hope you get the gist of what I am trying to say, its not just the local market that would be decimated but an awful lot of other people and trades would be effected too.

I agree that they should pay some form of tax but 32.5% is crazy, why not a flat rate of 15-18% that they cant claim back which stays local. This would allow them to save and travel within Australia and lets be honest the local community Australia wide will get it back anyway as they still need to eat and pay rent.

Please call me id love to chat further

Regards

Sean Arkininstall

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Sandra Curcio

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 3:25:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Primo Produce Pty Ltd as trustee for Ian and Jan Poggioli Family Trust

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If working holiday-makers are entitled to superannuation payments like Australian residents, then they should be taxed the same as Australian residents. To charge them higher tax rates is discriminatory. If the government wants to help employers & generate more employment they should stop superannuation guarantee payments to working holiday-makers. This would free up business' cash flow to employ more people. More people in employment equals more people paying tax.

Australians can choose to work in any job they wish to, but they do not want to work in agriculture or are incapable to. Therefore we have no choice but to employ working holiday-makers. Without working holiday-makers we DO NOT have an industry. We have more work available than people to work in the industry. Much of our production requires intensive labour, particularly at harvest. It can be hot, dirty, physical work and while the government continues to provide generous welfare to the unemployed, there is no incentive for these Australian's to come to rural areas to work in agricultural industries.

Leave the tax rates as is. Cancel super to working holiday-makers. Reduce welfare to unemployed Australians or provide incentives for them to move to rural areas & hold down long term jobs in agriculture.

**Name**

Robert Kennedy

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 3:53:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Until Whitlam increased the dole. it was not possible to live on it, so seasonal workers from the canefields hitched the caravan behind the car and went south for the fruit season. A large number of us either picked fruit or worked in the canneries and then went back for the cane season. After his "social reforms" took hold, the cane workers no longer went south, but battled through on the dole and whatever they could save during the season. Then we also had some more government help by removing the tariffs which protected our jobs that resulted in the canneries closing down. We really owe the Federal Government big time for past mistakes, and now they want to tax the only workers that the farmers can get to harvest their crops.

**Name**

Robert Price

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 4:47:17 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In regard to superannuation. If backpackers or working holiday makers don't claim their superannuation it should be returned to the employer not be appropriated by the government and put into general revenue. Logically it was never government money and the employer in good faith paid it to the employee. If the overseas employee effectively forfeits the money then it is right that the money be returned to the employer.

**Name**

Julian Maul

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 4:44:01 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Barossa Angus

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There is no doubt that we have seen a marked decline in interest and enquiries regarding working holiday stays as voluntary work or unpaid skilled training work in regional areas no longer counts towards a second year stay. People who had registered interest in a stay have now looked at other foreign destinations. This was a rash and ill-considered decision. We live in an area with one of the highest levels of EMPLOYMENT in Australia so there is virtually no unemployment and as a consequence, it's extremely difficult to find people interested in casual or seasonal employment. The Barossa wine grape industry is struggling to find pickers and pruners. The mechanised alternative has long term implications to wine quality. I've had people who in the past wanted to work as an intern on the farm as part of their agriculture degree qualification from Europe unable to come now because we would have to pay them. Given the amount of training and additional time it takes with language difficulties, it simply has not been worth it and as a consequence, we have deferred a lot of work on the farm. This naturally has a knock-on effect with our agricultural merchandise suppliers. With all of this, there is a knock-on effect as we have fewer visitors staying a second year. Our experience is they continue to stay in the regions as they come from urban areas overseas and urban Australia holds no allure for them.

**Name**

Susan Frances

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 5:15:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

BEST Employment Ltd.

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a Harvest Labour Service provider we know the importance of backpacker labour in our area and the problems with finding enough workers at peak periods. We feel that superannuation for backpackers is a big impost for employers and since it is not used for their retirement it is really viewed as a bonus when they go home. It adds considerably to the cost of employing labour for horticultural employers on top of already very high casual hourly rates. We feel that a 32.5% tax for backpackers would keep many away. We do agree that they should not be entitled to receive the tax free threshold and that they should pay tax from the first dollar earned but at a more reasonable rate of 15 - 20%. If no tax free threshold was offered and no rebate on leaving Australia it would also streamline processes for the ATO and save a considerable amount of labour and processing in that area.

**Name**

Ramon Bilcich

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 6:39:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Gemma Glover

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 5:15:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

As a 29 year old business professional I have had the most rewarding experience being able to travel and work remotely in Australia and it has really broadened my horizons and prospects with regards to my future career path. Having supported careers and employability projects for young people in many countries in Europe I am aware that there can often be conflicts with local workers feeling that they are not given enough opportunities to work, and for example in this case a backpacker. I do however believe that the country, similar to those in Europe richly benefits from having the diversity of travellers supporting the economy and I do believe that the increased tax rate will be of detriment to the future growth of Australia as a whole.



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 5:55:38 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I believe that all individuals employed in the horticulture industry should be taxed equally (as per a resident with tax file number PAYG Schedule NAT 1013), however, the working-holiday makers should not be eligible to claim the Tax Free Threshold at the end of the financial year. As a result, they receive the same pay packet as all other local workers and are happy to spend their earnings locally, therefore, the local community benefits from these visitors as well.

**Name**

terry willkinson

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 6:07:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

dole receivers should be asked to do the job and if they refuse should not be eligible for the dole.  
the major reason why backpackers are needed it that it is too easy to get unemployment pay..  
The country would struggle terribly with no backpackers as the Australians just will not do the  
work. should be work for the dole

**Name**

Simon Taylor

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 6:39:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Due to continued growth across both tourism and agriculture, there is growing demand for flexible labour in the these industries of the South West. The jobs effected by this tax cannot be undertaken by permanent residence as they generally have full employment and cannot stop what they're doing to perform the more season jobs. As a result, many harvesting and food processing businesses as well as tourism enterprises in the south west rely on foreign workers.

This level of taxation on an already fragile workforce will have a 'massively negative impact' on our key industries in Australias South West!

**Name**

Rob Scott

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 7:45:46 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?****Organisation name****Country****Written Submission**

As an industry we need to focus on:-

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Allan Francis Mc Nicol

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 8:15:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The payment rate should be inclusive of superannuation and taxed at a fair rate. Why should superannuation companies collect fees and charges for short term stay people. Money for nothing. Typical financial system.

**Name**

Samantha Lonsdale

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 8:22:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

As a working holiday visa maker, I can say that it's not fair I can only extend my visa through working in certain industries. We should be valued for all our contributions. The Canadian government supports their citizens in seasonal jobs, and doesn't just pass them off to others wanting to meet the country.

**Name**

Stephen Tancred

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 8:41:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There were 4,300 registered backpackers in our town last season (via the harvest job agency). Our town only has 5,000 permanent residents. It is not possible to operate our industry without backpackers as the local workforce doesn't exist and the unemployed in the cities won't come to our town for just a few months.

Backpackers should pay the same tax that you and i pay - \$18,000 tax free threshold then the normal marginal rates.

I observe that they spend all or most of their money on their holiday anyway, which makes the money go round and round. Especially with the GST they pay.

They don't use our health system without paying for it (travel insurance) and they don't use our social security or education system and those 3 Depts are the main use of tax collected.

if they get taxed at the higher rate then what services are you offering them?

**Name**

brian allen

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 10:06:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

we used to have at least 2 wwoofer { willing workers on organic farms} applying each week for farm stay to work in return for food and accommodation and cultural exchange, no money exchange in return for helping to operate our future business and obtain a 2 nd visa. Since the government has changed the regulations with the backpacker tax we have had only 2 applications in more than 6 months. These backpackers are now traveling to Canada and New Zealand avoiding Australia. We were trying as others in our area to develop a small business, but this has killed our dreams of doing this as we cannot afford to pay extra taxes and super for negligible return return. With less backpackers coming to Australia who would have spent money and encouraged others to travel to this great country i see this as a discouragement to travel to Australia.



**Name**

Thomas Jewell

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 10:07:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

NEW ZEALAND

**Written Submission**

Sydney Lockout Laws - Kind of fixed one problem depending on what 'stats' you read... But at what cost??

Not sure what taxing backpackers through the nose to do jobs clearly not wanted by Aussies is meant to be fixing/achieving. But; I can tell you in my opinion the potential problems it will create.

Massive loss of backpackers coming to Australia and a severely damaged reputation (remember your very beautiful neighbouring country that also has a booming tourist industry, your loss their gain. It takes a lot to build a reputation but not a lot to loose it).

Tax Avoidance will become an even bigger issue (the amount of backpackers I knew that were employed 'under the table' is already pretty high). Why introduce another incentive for backpackers to accept being illegally employed?

Finally, childcare will become even more of an issue. Yes practically all private au pairs don't pay tax unless they go through an agency thus not directly affected, however. When people stop coming to Australia on working holiday visas, numbers of suitable au pairs will also dry up. Why go to Australia when Canada, NZ and America all have either working holidays or dedicated au pair visas or both (Canada). In my experience most backpackers only undertake one or two working holidays before returning to their home countries. In the case of Germans great numbers travel abroad and work for a year before university. Would you choose a country with 32.5% tax?

**Name**

Christopher Kerwick

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 11:31:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Submission regarding employment opportunities for indigenous Australians.

I work for an employment services provider in a remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. I would like to contribute to this discussion from the perspective of employment opportunities for remote indigenous Australians.

As you will be aware, employment rates in remote indigenous communities is very low. Education levels are also low. In my experience, many remote indigenous Australians find it difficult to travel in search of work, for reasons such as connection to family and country, language difficulties, and lack of education, work experience, qualifications, and confidence. Too often young indigenous Australians transition directly from school to welfare, and once there, it can be difficult for them to find the confidence to enter the world of work.

It seems to me that the types of jobs often taken by backpackers would be also provide the perfect opportunity for young indigenous Australians to get exposure to life outside of their home communities, and experience the satisfaction of working and earning money in jobs that are within their capability. The fact that many of the jobs are seasonal means that young people can see an end point for the work, at which time would be able to return to the familiarity of their home community, which reduces the fear of travelling away.

In my experience working with indigenous people, it is often those who have travelled outside of their home communities who are the most confident and who tend to take the few jobs available to indigenous people in remote communities. This suggests to me that travelling and living in different communities is a valuable experience in building the type of confidence that increases the employability of indigenous Australians. This would be even more true if the very reason for travel was for employment.

It seems to me that by employing backpackers from overseas, local employers in the agricultural and tourism sectors are missing an opportunity to support the Australian effort to “bridge the gap” of indigenous disadvantage. This is not necessarily their fault. For in order to a relationship to develop between these industries and indigenous workers, there is need for a mediating service that can make these particular groups of employers and employees aware of each other, and support them to connect and grow a mutually beneficial relationship. I would like to see the government support the development of one or more labour hire companies specifically focused on labour hire both within aboriginal communities (for local employment) and that can support indigenous Australians to access employment opportunities such as work in tourism or fruit-picking and farmwork across the country. I would also like to see a campaign

that encourages employers to look for opportunities to employ indigenous Australians, in a manner that goes beyond including clauses in their advertisements encouraging them to apply.

Christopher Kerwick  
CDP Activities Officer  
Thamarrurr Development Corporation  
Wadeye and Nganmarriyanga, NT

**Name**

Jennie Lory

**Date Lodged**

29 Aug 2016 10:10:39 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Local people don't want to work , they have no incentive as they will be paid to stay at home and do nothing. This mind set has been encouraged by the government and we now see it in third generations of families! Until people have to work for a living the locals will continue not to bother. The backpackers fill the rolls that our locals are unwilling to do. They work because they have no social handouts to fall back on and a lot of them enjoy the experiences they have working at jobs they would have never done before, it all adds to their travel experience in Australia. There are some rogue employers and backpacker accommodation providers that make backpackers lives a misery, there should be some sort of reporting system for backpackers to be able to easily report these people.

**Name**

Felipe Díaz

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 2:57:49 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

CHILE

**Written Submission**

I'm a curent WH holder, so if this 32% tax will happen, would be a big problem for farmers, and a lot of us will fly to work in other countrys without this huge tax.

**Name**

Jeffrey Passlow

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:45:14 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I no longer offer work for working holiday makers, having retired. However, when in the horticultural industry I found it near impossible to get Australians to do the manual labor required. Revegetation work near Canberra was only completed when Tongans were recruited for the work. They would work hard 4 days each week and probably party for 3 but at least they got my job done.

**Name**

John Benz

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:49:56 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers working on farms in Australia are often exploited shamelessly by the industry.

The remuneration should not be taxed, as this encourages exploitation by the industry. They are also largely students, and should not be subjected to tax here.

**Name**

Nicole Barlow

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:14:50 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

We would be disadvantaged in rural and regional areas without backpackers. Our businesses and personal lives would suffer.



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:19:47 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Our business and personal care would suffer without the availability of backpackers. Increasing the tax will make it very hard for businesses and unappealing for backpackers to come to rural and regional areas. Not only have they helped my business but also personal care of my sick mother in a rural area.

**Name**

Christina Attwell

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 9:28:19 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have discussed this with Australians who have been offered short term seasonal work that have been advertised at Job Agencies. The various issues are (1) That they have to uproot themselves from their families & home. (2) Continue to pay rent or mortgages on their suburban homes due to rental contracts & obviously maintain their mortgages. (3) Seek further accommodation adding another cost when in the rural areas as not all farmers have accommodation. (4) Only a short term contract is offered perhaps a week to a couple of months at the most. (5) After the Australian worker has completed the short term job they have to wait 6 weeks before they can apply for Social Security payments whilst looking for further work as jobs now are so limited. (6) The extra burden in farmers paperwork & taxation laws including WorkCover Superannuation whilst is main work is farming. (7) These regulations are already expensive, time consuming & complex at the best of times for the employer let alone farmers. So please maintain the status quo, as is, not to apply taxation legislation on small farm holdings in regards to backpackers overseas tourists seasonal workers as this will obliterate our small producers & we still need local variety not just corporations fruit & veg.

**Name**

Timothy Langford

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 9:54:31 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Visa program should include hospitality and tourism aimed at working holiday makers.

**Name**

Richard Blanchette

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 11:58:55 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

#7; this opportunity exists

#4; In some regional areas the quantity of labour required is in great numbers that could not be filled by local employees alone. This would impact heavily on the agricultural output, particularly bananas. Community social and economic aspects would also be impacted as these workers are living in with the community for some 3 months.

**Name**

Ken Dally

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 10:47:17 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Greater enforcement of temporary hire industry is desperately needed. Too many are ripping off the workers which also harms producers.

**Name**

Kate OCallaghan

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 10:48:39 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Southern Cotton Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It would be difficult to source enough employees to run our cotton gin without backpackers labour. They fill a gap where local employees are not willing to work.

**Name**

Greg Clydesdale

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 11:09:47 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday makers and temporary overseas workers are separate categories but are identified as the same.

We need to ensure they are all protected and therefore need to be encouraged to report.

Many of both are paid cash with avoidance and illegality used by some.

Detail needs to be confirmed for both employer and employee security.

Refund super at Centrelink offices on submission of payment detail on fortnightly or monthly basis. Taxation can be reclaimed on exiting Australia after submission of payment records.

Computerised systems should allow a simple and easy to use system which does not impact on employers.

**Name**

Michael Dudgeon

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 12:23:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Stonecrest Tasmania Pty Ltd T/A Stonecrest Cherries

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are cherry growers who employ about 20 people who are on working holiday visas. They are employed for a 3 to 5 week period. Generally, these are very good workers and are vital to our business. We have very little interest from local people in this work, but we do give locals who are interested priority, although they are often not as motivated as the working holiday people.



**Name**

amanda walker

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 4:08:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Yerecoin Traders

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I run a business in a small town in WA's wheatbelt. We have seasonal work, dictating by the length and condition of the agricultural season. Backpackers are suitable candidates for this work, as it is generally short-term, casual work. We also employ local people who make up the full-time staff of our business. We don't have the people out here to draw from when casual/seasonal work opportunities arise. We also lack numbers of young people that we could employ after school/ on weekends etc that would help with seasonal demands.

Many years ago i was a backpacker here and i came back and chose to build my life here. Backpackers are a great source of young, educated, skilled and enthusiastic workers that rural towns should be encouraged to tap into, not hinder by imposing additional tax burdens. Additionally, it will be the business owners that pay the brunt of the increased tax, as we will have to offer increased hourly rates to compensate for the tax loss. Another option may be to allow backpackers to become exempt from superannuation payments - as this really is a burdensome cost form employers. Backpackers are generally not planning on retiring here, and so paying superannuation for them is really contradicting the concept. Plus it is a huge headache for employers, particularly if they have left the region and are hard to contact. Dont introduce the higher tax rate and make working holiday visa holders exempt from superannuation payment. That would enable business owners like myself to offer a positive work experience to travelers, that is cost effective to our business.

**Name**

Anthony Dow

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 2:34:58 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay has tested an innovative local recruitment with the local Strawberry industry across the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay region - accounts for 30% of national strawberry production. Collaboration involving Growcom, local Councils and private sector training and recruitment expert. Initiated in response to the proposed back-packer tax and notable decline in available workers. Results since May launch have been 'astounding' - 7,000 website hits, 2,000 Job Seeker registrations, 500 attend info sessions, 85 interviewed and 60 new local job placements. Barriers - many examples of issues with employing Australian workers - high unemployment areas such as Caboolture (16.9% youth unemployment), yet very few suitable/reliable workers. Centrelink / unemployment policy and the incentives for seasonal work needs to be addressed as part of a transition program for backpackers and seasonal workforce.

Letters offering support to roll-out this tested local PR & recruitment solution, requesting action and engagement from Federal government have been sent to Minister Nash, Deputy PM, Barnaby Joyce, local members Hon Peter Dutton, Luke Howarth and Susan Lamb.

Please see copy of letter attached. We support the submission of the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association. We now request further engagement and consultation and offer the experience of piloting the Sweetest Job campaign [www.thesweetestjob.com.au](http://www.thesweetestjob.com.au). We propose overall a much more integrated workforce transition strategy that supplements any backpacker tax change with; a review of incentives for Centrelink clients to take-up seasonal work and maintain a level of benefit; training support (similar to Skilling Queenslanders for Work).

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

Recent article for FIAL :

LOCALS RECONNECTING WITH GROWERS THANKS TO THE SWEETEST JOB CAMPAIGN

This is the story of how a region (actually two regions) collaborated with their celebrated Strawberry Growers to diversify risk, improve the industry's profile and increase local employment

The heavy reliance on an overseas sourced workforce, in some cases up to 90% of the total employed on farm, presented a business continuity risk to the horticultural and wider agribusiness industry. Federal government proposals to change the tax thresholds for foreign workers, negative media stories related to poor working conditions and Fair Work

investigations, and overall global uncertainties have contributed to a reported downward trending in the number of foreign workers or backpackers available to work on farm.

Rather than sit back and bemoan this challenge, the strawberry growers of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions seized the opportunity to reconnect with their communities and the under-utilised human resource hidden within. Whether it was the unemployed youth, students, stay at home parents, early retirees, grey nomads or recently arrived immigrants, members of the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association were determined to find out just who, within their community, had the desire and ability to take-on rewarding seasonal work close to home.

Led by Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay a regional partnership was formed that included both local councils, Growcom and a local employment industry specialist, The Job Show.

A group of 11 growers and the support organisations agreed that a local recruitment campaign on a trial basis had the potential to:

- 1) start down the road of employing more locals, ideally discovering a loyal returning workforce;
- 2) raise the profile of the industry locally (positive PR to balance some negative stories associated workforce issues);
- 3) re-connect the local community with strawberry growers;
- 4) reduce the risk of 90% overseas workforce given the proposed tax changes and evidence of declining numbers of backpackers (especially from Asia); and
- 5) raise the employment compliance standards overall (with involvement of Fairwork)

The Sweetest Job Campaign and website [www.thesweetestjob.com.au](http://www.thesweetestjob.com.au) was launched on 26 May at Taste n See Farms in Bellmere and on the Sunshine Coast at Jedaco Berries Farm. The media coverage was fantastic, with Channel 7 and WIN both featuring the campaign on their local and national primetime news bulletins and local print media running with front page stories.

President of the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association (QSGA) Luigi Coco said:

“Getting temporary workers to pick strawberries can often be difficult and many strawberry growers are concerned about a number of factors that could potentially impact the future availability of strawberry farm workers, particularly overseas workers.

“This campaign offers our growers the chance to build themselves a stable workforce of local residents. Not only will it benefit our industry but also the communities in the region by opening up opportunities for those who may not have considered our industry for work previously.

“Seasonal fruit picking or packing work can be tough at times but there are also numerous benefits including significant financial gains to be made over a short period of time for those who are keen and willing to work hard. We are looking forward to seeing positive results for the industry and the community.”

The following table highlights the positive impact of the high profile media exposure:

Stats Description	7 days post Launch	4 weeks post launch
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UNIQUE WEBSITE HITS	4,657	6,565
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JOBSEEKER REGISTRATIONS	1,234	1,809
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EMAILS SENT	1,127	1,777
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EMAILS OPENED 677 1,089  
COMPLETED SURVEYS 560 1,025  
INFO SESSION ATTENDEES 350 (over 4 sessions)  
INTERVIEWED 37  
COMMENCED WORK 18

Now about 2 months into the campaign, and still early season, the number of new local jobs created stands at around 50 for the farms included in the trial. That's estimated to equate to a 10% increase in local employment – a great start.

Listen to what two new employees and their employers have to say:

"We had no hesitation in selecting Mark because of his enthusiasm and great attitude," says Rodney Prestia who manages recruitment at Sunray Strawberries. "If all goes well, we would be keen to keep Mark on during the off season and to put him in a more senior position next year. Ideally, we would like to have plenty of returning local workers in key positions within our business."

Having completed his induction, today was Mark's first day out in the field picking strawberries. And, far from being daunted by the work, Mark says he is loving his new job and likes the idea of piece rates because the harder he works, the more he can earn.

Sonya Chaplain, originally from the Gold Coast, moved to Caboolture to spend more time with her grandmother. Mrs Chaplain had just returned from living in England, and had started applying for strawberry picking jobs without success. "Places I applied for said they were full, but then I saw the Sweetest Job campaign" she said "I applied and got the job." Mrs Chaplain said she was now considering buying a house in the area. "I would definitely keep doing the work. I would love for it to turn into something more permanent and buy a house in the area" she said

Anthony Dow from Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay is happy to share more information and help rollout similar campaigns in other regions to support local employment and business continuity.

**Name**

Kathryn Keefe

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 12:45:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

It is critical for our industry to be able to employ seasonal workers at short notice due to climatic conditions. We have had great success with backpackers and we also hire Australians as we find they are available but we find they are generally less inclined to do this type of work which is hard physical work and on a spasmodic basis and their expectations of pay for this work is difficult to meet within our budget.

**Name**

Chris Magnay

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 12:28:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Kimberleyland Holiday Park

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We find it very hard to employ Australian residents to work as Gardeners, cleaners and food and beverage staff so rely on 'backpackers' to help fill our seasonal staffing needs. Without this ready source of labour our business would really struggle.

**Name**

John Thomas

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 1:21:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Michelle Clarke

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 12:56:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There are some small agriculture/horticulture farms that employ people for short periods only which is perfect for holidaying backpackers as we can't provide enough employment for local people all year round.



**Name**

Julian Constantine

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 2:52:44 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
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- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.

- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of

resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then

withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.

- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean

that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.

- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest

our crops.

Section D

**Name**

Sweeter Banana

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 3:22:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Sweeter Banana Co-op Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As an industry we need to focus on:-

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Howard Poole

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 5:38:29 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Pooles Produce Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

1. We think that whilst 32.5% tax for seasonal overseas workers is somewhat inflated, a lower amount of tax around 20% to 25% without a threshold seems a more appropriate amount.
2. We believe that superannuation earned in Australia should remain in Australia and either used at the appropriate time by the recipient as an Australian citizen or used to fund training/infrastructure in Australia. Growers in Australia are in serious need of R & D projects, or need monies to help current unemployed Australians retrain to an employable level.
3. Piece work/contract work has been known to be used to exploit unsuspecting overseas labour. Often award wages are not met using this form of labour payment. It could be considered exploitation or almost verging on slave labour. In many instances this creates an unnecessary oversupply of product and places unnecessary input cost ratios on those that comply as a result.
4. Third world countries may be better placed to service the industry through an invitation for back packers to work here. During a time of economic downturn, economic injections from their own people will have better outcomes for the country than providing foreign aid to those countries.
5. Whilst there is a ready workforce of overseas back packers there is no pressure on the need to get unemployed Australians back into the workforce. This cycle needs to be changed and it can be argued that employing overseas back packers will continue to inhibit this from occurring. If we continue to ignore unemployed people in Australia, a solution will never be found.
6. The fruit and vegetable industry has a serious shortage of trained, experienced, available Australian staff and this puts increasing pressure on the future sustainability of farming operations. Higher level Australian employees, eg managers are almost impossible to find or attract. We believe that this is a result of unemployed Australians, or for that matter any Australian, not being available or trained to consider this industry as a viable profession.
7. A review of this industry is essential and understanding what is really taking place on the land is critical in making a decision on this matter. This company feels that in the long term, exploiting overseas labour has resulted in a serious skill shortage in the industry. Skill shortages in this industry may in fact be detrimental to Australia taking full advantage of free trade into the future. Our question is does the exploitation of staff conflict with the conditions negotiated in free trade agreements thus putting them in jeopardy? Unscrupulous labour hire

companies take advantage of backpackers and consequently growers continue to be put under the microscope by regulators.

We believe it's sad that to stay competitive in a global market we need to exploit back packers and consequently the Australian government is being exploited by default?

8. This company makes itself available for a face to face/telephone interview on this matter.

[REDACTED]

**Name**

Allison Mills

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 4:09:29 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Shire of Perenjori

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The Shire of Perenjori Council would like to express concern for the proposed “backpacker” tax which is aiming to tax non-residents working in Australia at 32.5% from their first dollar of income. Our community is dominated by the Agriculture industry and is supported by small business in the hospitality and tourism industries. As a community with limited population numbers, in particular younger people who are willing and able to perform the work required by agricultural and hospitality industries, “backpackers” provide a valuable necessary source of labour. Our family farming businesses rely on additional labour to ensure the effective running of their business. The challenges are many when trying to attract young residents from Australia to take up this work and to move to rural communities, expecting people to give up a lifestyle they are used to and to move away from family and friend support networks is just two of the reasons why there is a labour shortage in this area. Furthermore the hospitality and tourism industries which are key small business in small rural towns also have difficulties in attracting and retaining labour to support the conduct of their operations.

Whilst there are obvious economic benefits the social benefits have also been noticeable with the addition of varying cultures in the community assisting to sustain the younger population across our community. Reducing any incentive to encourage the travellers to venture out to small regional towns like Perenjori will be severely detrimental to our and other like sized communities.

The following concerns summarise the implications for our community if this tax is implemented and the incentive to encourage workers to venture to small rural communities is removed:

- Vacant positions in hospitality and farming businesses which cannot be filled;
- Potential closure of businesses, and
- Decreased production in Agriculture and of general goods and services.

We urge the Commonwealth Government to re-consider this tax to ensure overseas travellers continue to be attracted to Australia to fill the gap in areas where labour is a real and experienced shortage. The detriments to our and many other small communities would be very harmful, and add to the many other challenges we face in sustaining populations.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 4:05:08 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If it wasn't so hard for someone one government support to go and get some seasonal work and when it finishes to be able without major start all over again paper work to receive ongoing support again when the seasonal work finishes and maybe some incentive to join the workforce and continue to participate on a regular basis



**Name**

Rita Brooks

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 5:09:14 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

The View on Hannans Kalgoorlie

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As per the terms of reference for this Review.

1.The questions fail to address and understand the critical hospitality labour shortage in regional WA.

2.The Backpackers working in regional areas is the mainstay of many Hospitality jobs in my experience

and as an example I have advertised for a Front Office receptionist and in the last 5 months there has been no applicants locally.I have offered a traineeship to no avail.I have also advertised on all the Backpacker employment sites with no response.In the last few years prior to the announcement of the tax the Motel business would always have received applications from UK,Irish and German professionally trained Hospitality Front office staff.As a result the business is struggling to maintain and adequately provide for Contractor and Visitors to Kalgoorlie.

As a consequence the standard and expectations of visitors fall short in terms of service.

Similarly I have advertised for a qualified Chef and I have received no response.It has been incorrectly stated that the mining downturn would provide more applicants for jobs such as Chefs.Previously I would have had applicants who were on working holidays.Professionally trained chefs from UK and Germany have all travelled to Kalgoorlie to work in the restaurant in the last 6 years.However since the tax has been announced there are no applications from working holiday professionals.

The amount of time and cost related to the 457 visa applications for Chefs is too onerous for a small business.

As a result many businesses do not open on a Sunday because they cannot pay the prohibitive rates and be short staffed for the rest of the week.

3.The Hospitality sector should be included in the assessment of work for a 2nd year extension of the Visa.(if it is to continue at all)

It has been my experience that even in the busy periods I lose backpacker staff because they need to work(in one particular instance) on a sheep station 15 mins out of town!

4. There are no local applicants applying for the positions in Hospitality that I have advertised in the last 6 months. There are less people living in Kalgoorlie, despite repeated ads and going through all the Employment agencies (incl Max Employment)

5. Backpackers are the highest spending group of Tourists because they stay longer and they spend what they earn.

The proposed impending tax has acted as a disincentive to any Tourists intending to holiday in Australia and work and the numbers of visitors have dropped dramatically and as a result we do not have sufficient staff.

6. Unemployment numbers have continued at the same rate when compared with the numbers of working holiday tourists. This is evidence that

backpackers do not prohibit those unemployed and vulnerable workers from opportunities of commencing or continuing employment.

7. However the businesses that rely on the contribution of Tourist workers are suffering significantly.

8. This issue can be resolved by

a. withdrawing the proposed tax.

b. Include Hospitality employment in the assessment for the grant of a second year visa

c. alternatively grant a 2 year working holiday visa with no restrictions so that Australia can again appeal to working holiday tourists.

d. the low Australian dollar has acted as a disincentive to travel to Australia to work as well as the proposed tax.

e. In order to establish Australia as a preferred holiday destination the whole approach should be changed and incentives could include

an easier transition to apply for permanent residency.

f. Professionally qualified tourists often choose a working holiday visa in order to determine where they intend to work and settle. Regional Australia has many opportunities for professional to establish their own business, work in professional practice or commence their own business but the choices immigrants make can often be determined by their knowledge of an area and positive work experience during their backpacker travels etc.,

As an example I employed a Welsh waitress who was a trained nurse and she has subsequently returned to Kalgoorlie to take up a nursing position 3 years after her hospitality work.

g. The GST is applicable on all transactions paid by Backpackers in the community etc and they do contribute and should have a similar tax free threshold the same as working permanent residents.

**Name**

Joachim Bretzinger

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 4:56:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am a backpacker living at the moment in Sydney.

A backpacker tax would force me to spend my whole income in accomondation and food.

The problem is that there are insecurities for example when it rains there is no work. But the fixed costs are still the same.

The tax rate would cut off my savings and in the end it would harm the australian economy as well.

I will spend my money to travel down the eastcoast tasmania etc. And throug investing the australian government benefits as well.

If the tax is coming there is no reason to stay longer here, because i cant affird traveling anymore

**Name**

Tiffany McCormick

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 4:55:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpacker tax increase with no tax return would mean huge changes for the Australian economy. I believe the tax increase and no return would be detrimental to Australia as less backpackers will come & more will be forced to work cash in hand jobs that aren't fair, safe or legal. This would result in little or no benefit for Australian economy compared to the huge benefit travellers have on the Australian economy at present.

**Name**

Gail Gillis

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 5:39:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As Wwoof Hosts who have hosted dozens of young people we have heard many stories of how many are still being ripped off by contractors. More needs to be done to take care of these young people many of whom are vulnerable because of the language barrier. With rare exception we have found them to be hard working and genuine. They have become part of our global extended family and come back often just to visit.

In the meantime we have stopped taking Australian Wwoofers because they have a very poor work ethic and we don't want them. Yes, we are Australian but from an age group (70s) who know how to do a real day's work and still do.

We also provide affordable accommodation for young people working on local farms and know they work really hard and not too many Australians would do this work. We have two with us right now who for gross \$23 hour work 10 hour shifts at night fumigating strawberry fields by floodlight. This is disgusting work and I wonder how safe they really are around all these sprays. They DO NOT get any extra for working all night until about 2am nor do they get any extra for the extended hours they work or weekends. In a ten or eleven hour shift they get 2 half hour breaks. Pretty unAustralian. I don't know too many Australians who work under these conditions for such little pay.

I think the young people coming to this country to work on the whole get a pretty poor deal. Hard work, little or no pay in appalling conditions and now the governments wants to deny them their rightful tax return. As for superannuation. They paid it they are entitled to it.

I think we are cutting off our nose to spite our face. You can go on all you like about 'taking jobs from Australians'. Wake up, Australians don't want the work and our rural Australians rely on their contribution to our economy by doing what Australians won't do and remember they are also supporting local business because they still have to live and eat and socialize. They spend their money locally.

**Name**

Valentin Laucht

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 5:33:24 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I think the sector that will most suffer from this tax will be agriculture because all this jobs are mostly done by backpackers. The only reason for most backpackers to do this strenously farmwork is to qualify for the 2nd year visa to earn some money for future travels in their 2nd year. If the tax will increase, most backpackers won't do their 2nd year and as there is no need for hard and bad payed farmwork for 2nd year as a result they won't do farmwork anymore.

I worked in towns with 3000 citizens with over 100 backpackers in farm jobs. Try to fill all this positions with locals. Good luck.

**Name**

Wayne Thomas

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 5:48:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

This proposed backpacker tax will cripple the industry, these young people will not come to Australia if the government is going to tax them at this ridiculous rate

PLEASE HELP THE FARMERS don't dis-advantage them by doing this

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 6:24:17 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Those on working holidays contribute by working hard in extreme weather circumstances for an often small reward. They will pay taxes for every good and service while here and contribute in the communities they work. I would question the wisdom in further reducing their income as it would more than likely be spent where it is earned and where it is most needed. If it were made to be less rewarding I would assume a sharp decline in those who might participate in this work and lead to a position where workers would be brought from overseas (457) working for companies based overseas where the money earned would find its way back to those countries of worker origin in one way or another. It could also have an impact on the profitability of farms and lead to a situation where the farm is sold to overseas interests who would then control the workforce on those farms and the profits they make, leaving little contribution to the Australian economy. I think we should encourage those willing to work in these environments, whether local or tourist, to keep funds earned here to stay here.



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 7:14:38 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I have found during my experience as a woof host that people are more than willing to work for their second year visa. Also some of these people would not be able to get paid work because they are not yet skilled enough to speak English well. If they come to work here I have found that a lot of time goes into teaching but it is worth the effort if they stay for longer periods. I also know that a lot of these people are exploited being paid very low wages in city restaurants etc. but still have to pay for expensive accommodation and also not enough tax deducted from their wages. Having these people here can be very time consuming and also expenses are food, accommodation, gas, garbage removal, internet usage, car expenses, electricity, accidental breakage etc. but it is worth the effort 99 per cent of the time they do their best and are not exploited in any way.

**Name**

Robert Green

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 6:51:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Working Holiday backpackers are not here to make money.

They spend all they earn usually in the community that they are working in, keeping enough money to sustain them until the next job.

**Name**

Judy Veal

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 7:36:39 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Touchwood Farming

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Mt Binga Queensland does not have its own postcode and falls under the post code 4306 for Blackbutt, which is the postcode for the area from Ipswich up to Blackbutt. Mt Binga and Blackbutt are not recognised as being Rural and does not qualifying for backpackers to work 3 months and extend their visa. Mt Binga does not even have a shop it is a handful of farms which is a approximately a 200km drive west of Brisbane. The shire we fall under for our rates is Toowoomba which is approximately 90 km north/west of Mt Binga. Because the postcode is the deciding factor for a backpacker to be employed in "Regional Queensland" to qualify for their extended visa, Mt Binga is severely disadvantaged with this scheme and it is not a proposition for backpackers to work in our area.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 7:30:25 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

With regards to a future lack of staff for the farming industry, myself, my partner and six others who were on a first year working holiday visa, worked within the banana industry, Apple industry, grape industry, hops industry and oranges, we planned to return on a second year visa toward the end of this year and continue to work within these industries but now we are not returning until the fate of the tax is decided, if it is decided to be brought in, we will not return and I'm sure there are similar groups of working holiday visa makers who will be the same.

**Name**

Rebecca Lindert

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:02:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Rogan Pastoral Company

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The proposed backpacker tax will take money out of rural communities and put it into Canberra instead.

**Name**

Craig Dibbin

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:23:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

At Sea Enterprises trading as Prima Sailing Adventures

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a tourist operator we feel it would have a large impact on our business as a large part of our customer base is people travelling on working visas. Similarly a large portion of our workforce is people travelling on working visas - we would prefer to have local staff for the stability of employment however we find it difficult to get Australian workers. We do find that having the international staff is of great benefit with our passengers as a result of many of the holiday workers speaking multiple languages.

The town we live in would suffer greatly without the working holiday visa holders filling the many hospitality and tourism job roles in town. The local population would not be able to fill the sheer number of these jobs in town and businesses would not be able to operate.

Travellers with working holiday visas form a significant part of the employment pool in our town and are part of the fabric of our town.

**Name**

Roberta Collins

**Date Lodged**

30 Aug 2016 8:36:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Having been involved in hosting back packers through the WWOOF program for more than 15 years i am very aware of listening to them explore their options for travel in australia. They are willing to seek employment out side of cities and willing to pay taxes and become visiting "Australians". By and large my guests have been wonderful contributors to our experience of regional australia. They want to learn about Australia and many will return to Australia later with their families as paying guests of Australia if we make them welcome. As well if we employ them then it is reasonable that they pay taxes and that employer super payments belong to them if they are earning over the monthly amount that means they earn Superannuation.

**Name**

Katie Bell

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 3:03:00 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

I have not applied for my second year visa as the potential high tax would make it difficult to make a living, especially with the high cost of living in Australia. If the tax law for backpackers comes in I will be looking into travelling and working in other countries such as New Zealand and Canada.



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 6:00:12 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

GERMANY

**Written Submission**

I am a former working holiday holder and did my farm work to get my second year visa. I was wwoofing all along the West Coast and Tasmania. It was the best experience in my life. Wwoofing helped me to get to know the Australian way of life (not just living with backpackers who only come to work and earn money), to improve my English and most of all I learned a lot about farming itself and myself, too.

I was part of a family for a while made friends with natives and other wwoofers alike. I believe wwoofing is not only really helpful for the organic industry but also for backpackers. Everyone should wwoof one day to value food, work and the countryside. To get to know Australia, the land and the people. I know that a lot of backpackers who are in Australia at the moment were sad about the new law that wwoofing is not eligible work for your second year. They all wished they could have made the same experiences and also: I have never ever heard from an ex-wwoof that he/she felt exploited-the opposite has ALWAYS been the case!!!!

**Name**

Coulton

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 6:41:21 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Morella Agriculture

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Backpackers should not have to pay superannuation and this could then go towards a small tax. This would then mean that money would circulate in regional Australia.

**Name**

Antonio Castorina

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 8:23:58 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

To whom it may concern,

I am a 65 year old fruit and vegetable farmer and have employed backpackers since 1971. I have been in this industry since 1968 with my father who arrived in Australia in 1949. With this experience I know what I am talking about.

Farmers overseas are rubbing their hands together over what is happening here concerning the backpackers tax. There will be NO fruit and vegetable industry if this tax is passed.

Fruit and vegetables are essential components of our diets and are the foods that have been proven to fight cancer and other illnesses. eg: cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. Our farms and farming practices have the highest world standards. We can only use registered chemicals at appropriate times and have strict regulations regarding water and soil testing and are constantly monitored with safe work practices and hygiene of employees and pack houses. As an Australian farmer I must abide by these regulations. How is it possible to compete with overseas suppliers who do not abide by the same rules. Is this double standards?

Importance of Backpackers to Australia.

The backpackers are VERY important to our industry. Most fruit and vegetable crops are not grown all year round. Because of this the work is seasonal meaning there are not enough local seasonal workers within the region to carry out associated work. Fruit and vegetables are a perishable product and have to be picked in a timely manner or the crop will be lost, meaning the grower will suffer a significant loss hurting our back pocket. Backpackers are just young people who are fit and eager to work to fund their journey Down-under. These young people bring their own money as well as spending their earnings in Australia. However they have indicated to us that if they are highly taxed they will travel to other countries where similar work is available. The money the backpackers earn in Australia 100% goes back into the local community. Tax and super are however claimed when they go home which to me seems ridiculous as Australia as a whole is not seeing this money which was earned here.

I have not forgotten the times when taxes were high and there were no pickers to be had causing huge crop losses. Since the taxes were lowered and the backpackers have come trying to earn some money with the possibility of a second year visa the crops can be harvested.

Some politicians have voiced their opinion that local unemployed people could be used.

We do occasionally have local people willing to work and we are very happy to have them too. However when workers are sent from the unemployment office they almost invariably can't or

won't work, or don't actually turn up at all. This is not good enough when you are running a farming business.

Backpackers are tourists spending the money brought with them and the wages they have earned in Australia. Workers on other visas however send their earnings back home. Backpackers currently are the backbone of the fruit and vegetable industry which earns Australia large export dollars. These dollars won't be available if we have no industry.

#### PROPOSAL

The back packer tax MUST remain the same at 13% flat. Also the tax paid should be claimed whilst still in Australia not upon returning to their home country this goes for the super contributions as well. As a farmer I find it absolutely ludicrous that MY MONEY I pay in Super gets spent overseas while knowing Australia is in huge Debt. I will go to my grave knowing that if this increase in the backpackers tax goes ahead the Australian fruit and vegetable industry will be finished. Crops will not be harvested and increasing imports will put what remains of the industry at risk due to imported pests and diseases. I personally hold the Australian government 100% responsible.

Concerned grower.

Antonio Castorina.

**Name**

Andrew Bullard

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 10:04:19 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Back packers are an essential ingredient in our casual labour requirements

**Name**

Lorna Hempstead

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 10:19:20 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Magnetic Island Community Development Assoc Inc

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Magnetic Island is a seasonal tourist destination which relies on the backpacker sector to provide short term labour "in season" which is not normally available from our resident community. Where locals are available - they are employed first as they have better local knowledge, and often choose to work season to season only. Backpackers fill the then available jobs - which otherwise could not be filled at all leaving a gaping hole in our economy, and a much poorer visitor experience. (who wants to wait an hour for a meal as there are not enough staff to cook and serve, an enormous damage to destination reputation)

**Name**

Adrian Schultz

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 11:01:46 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Immaburra Gardens

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The removal of the opportunity for woofers ( people who travel the world and are happy to do some work for food and board ) to qualify for the second working visa has affected our business greatly. Most years up to half our backpacking staff return to our farm the following season after travelling or finding further work elsewhere in Australia before heading home. Many have indicated that were the backpacker tax eventuate they would leave the country to find work in N.Z or Canada. Many have indicated that they would also be happy to pay some tax but not 32.5%!

**Name**

Eleanor Blaney

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 11:18:52 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

WHV holders can be taken advantage of; poor pay & hours, living conditions



**Name**

Alexandra Toohey

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 12:47:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Moirā Shire Council

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

These holiday workers are vital in the agricultural sector during the fruit picking season. Local people don't want these jobs and by increasing the tax rate these working holiday makers will also not want to do the work which will have a devastating effect on the ability of the growers to get fruit from the trees in a timely manner to reduce loss and waste.

**Name**

Penny Tideman

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 1:50:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Living in a small rural community, there is limited Australian workforce available and most of those who want to work have jobs, therefore we are absolutely dependent on working holiday makers to provide a substantial workforce during the picking season.

**Name**

Andrew Clarke

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 2:10:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We have a coffee farm and need labour to harvest the crop. Our coffee plantation dates back to 1998. In that time we have found that holiday makers are better, more reliable pickers than local labour. In the last ten years most of our crop has been picked by holiday makers. The proposed tax would be a major disincentive for holiday makers. We expect that our business would suffer because of a shortage of reliable pickers.

**Name**

Chris Collins

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 2:21:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I employ 2-3 full time workers and many working holidaymakers at peak period up to 30. These jobs are constantly offered to Australians and very few want to do the work. Those who do give it a go usually only last a few days. Taxing working holidaymakers 32.5% from the first dollar will severely impact my business. I may not even be able to find the labour during peak periods.

**Name**

Ronald Pelham

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 3:04:52 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Pelham Enterprises Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our company employs up to 30 back packers each harvest to assist in the extremely difficult job of covering and protecting grain delivered by farmers to CBH open storages. Attempts to employ locals during the previous 20 years have resulted in anything from extremely unlikely to laughed at. Locals realise how hot and difficult the job can be. We have a world wide data base of contacts from previous seasons, who recommend the job to their friends and family/relatives for the job. Our previous employees and ones who can do a second working visa have been keeping in constant touch with us via phone and email. Now, since the announcement of the proposed tax, none are even answering my emails. The news of the tax was spread world wide via social media within 24 hours of the announcement and all the indications we have heard indicate the vast majority have decided to avoid working in Australia. The damage has already been done. Nothing short of an announcement by the Government to either defer or significantly reduce the proposed tax will have any affect. I doubt many politicians or people in government realise how devastating this will be to our agricultural industry. Failure to be able to protect the huge quantities of grain during harvest will have devastating consequences, perhaps resulting in countless millions of dollars loss. Failure to comply with our contract terms to protect grain would also mean the loss of our contracts, and indeed our business. We believe that back packers are already dealt with harshly by the system. Unless they work for over 6 months they are not entitled to the tax free threshold. Even if they are, they leave all the infrastructure the tax they have paid assists to build behind them in Australia. They see no benefit from all the tax they have paid. These people earn money and spend money locally, which goes a long way to supporting businesses in the rural communities. They open bank accounts, pay for use of many community facilities, pay for accomodation and meals, the list goes on. Harvest is drawing close and it takes time to change the mood, recruit backpackers and train them to work safely.

I repeat in the strongest way possible, the government must act NOW to stem the flow of bad news on social media and protect our industry. The tax was a BAD idea and one that could do irreparable damage.

**Name**

Saxon Boston

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 2:51:40 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Northwest Solutions

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Why don't we pay the super to visitors to a single BPAY to the ATO so as to retain all of there super instead of taxing some of it as they leave to spend in another country. We are the laughing stock of the world as no other country pays an itinerant money for their pension when they do not live here.

Also if Rolls Royce can easily and without delay build nuclear reactors for military submarines and aircraft carriers why is it so difficult to build a nuclear power plant.

**Name**

Mihkel Saar

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 3:51:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I really don't understand why would you want to cut off packers from AU by that new killing tax!?

I'm on my 1st year visa and probably never return for a second if that tax law goes thru :(

**Name**

Sophie Love

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 3:32:14 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

The Naked Farmers

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We live one hour from the closest regional/rural town. No Australian is prepared to travel to our farm to work for minimum wage doing hard work - planting garlic, digging for crop preparation, fencing, maintaining riverbanks, weeding etc. Only backpackers are willing to do this work. In return, they experience rural life, the majestic beauty of rural Australia, native flora and fauna and write, years later, that their most lasting and BEST memory of their entire time in Australia, is their time on our farm. This should be encouraged. Australia is not just the (dying) barrier reef and Uluru. Countries all around the world have worked out that rural agri-tourism is a winner in terms of injecting money into rural and regional areas, re-connecting people with landscape and food provenance, re-connecting people to nature and restoring a spiritual connection to planet. Why is this government so blind to regional and rural issues and so determined to destroy farms, farmers and farming land with mines, fracking, and destroying our labour force? Ordinary Australians aren't interested in working HARD for little reward, but the backpackers will and our farm, as so many others, cannot survive without them.



**Name**

Keeley Hanlon

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 4:00:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The amount of red tape on particular industries actually prevents talented individuals from completing jobs they are physically able to

**Name**

Greg Price

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 4:13:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Jump Tours Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

It should be noted that regional employment often nurtures an interest in seeing and exploring regional Australia. The working holiday visa program encourages young international travellers to explore beyond the major cities and go on to book tours, accommodation and other activities with tour operators such as us (Jump Tours) who operate in the regional areas of Tasmania and the Northern Territory. People rarely travel to regional areas to work without also taking in the sights. Tour operators like us employ locals and spend millions of dollars in the local communities where we operate.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 4:39:26 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers should pay tax in the same way as locals: as a percentage, once they've passed a minimum income. They have the same expenses for accommodation, food etc as Australians.

However, waiving the requirement to spend a long period of time in one location so as to claim residency would encourage more backpackers to spend time in rural areas helping out with harvesting, as opposed to spending the majority of their time in the cities.

**Name**

Wesley Daniel

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 5:00:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Zantini Nominees T/as The Fruit Tree factory

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers on a working holiday visa should have no super saved. I believe that the money should be given to them as part of their wage. That way they will be more likely to spend it in Australia. I am not apposed to taxing backpackers but it is no good allowing them to access the money once they leave the country. Apply a low rate and keep the funds, otherwise give the backpacker the money and let them spend it in Australia.

**Name**

Gerard Saint

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 5:22:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

The reason employers can't find Australians to fill their positions is because they know if they offer minimum wage backpackers who are happy with a wage that is significantly more than their home country which often doesn't have many job prospects will be take the position, and 2nd year visa requirements for 90 days of regional work increase the incentive.

**Name**

Romeo DeBoni

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 5:55:00 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AZERBAIJAN

**Written Submission**

As an industry we need to focus on:-

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- .
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Gavin Hill

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 5:48:07 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Peter Hill and Son

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australians do not want to work in rural isolated areas where we farm.

Backpackers are in a majority educated and highly skilled and form the backbone of our season workforce

**Name**

James Kochi

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 7:32:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

My business requires about 30 seasonal workers to top up the 12 local regular workers who do the harvest, packing, pruning and other jobs in the packing shed and orchard. We require large numbers of workers for short bursts of 2- 4 months and for work on all days of the week. Farming is not a Monday - Friday business and work has to be done in a timely manner and to fit around weather events to get the crop off.

My farm is 5 km from Atherton centre on a major road and in the past 5 years we have not had a single local person approach us for a job. However, on a daily basis we get vans of backpackers call in looking for work, A local concerned person suggested that my farm may be too far out of town if locals did not have transport to come out to work. My reply was, " At age 10,I was given a bicycle and I rode to Atherton Primary and High school every day for 7 years there and back , those exact same 5 km each way. Apparently 18-25 yo Australians are no longer capable of riding a bicycle 5 km ( 20 minutes) but would rather stand for hours at Centerlink filling out claim forms instead.

Locals are just not interested and any programme that forces them to do so only results in poor performance, sabotage of operations and general disinterest in the hope of being relieved of the burden of regular work, The Centerlink programmes are just too lucrative to pass up.

Backpackers are willing to work. They are intelligent and can understand instruction and follow instruction. They will work as required if odd hours, weekends are necessary to harvest if wet weather interrupts regular hours. They turn up on time and leave at days end. They are not burdened by emergency phone calls, pick up of children or pets, or "sickies".

Backpackers are simply easy to instruct and are reliable.

Backpackers are also important to our local and regional community because they spend their earning in the community and Australia. They eat, drink and play locally and engage in all the tourist activities eg, hot air balloon, scuba dives on reef, white water rafting, trips to regional tourist spots , travel around Australia.

I think they should pay some tax.

I thing they should not be paid superannuation because they are not going to retire in Australia and the cost is a burden to the farmers who pay it. These backpackers often leave Australia without claiming their superannuation since they have multiple accounts and no permanent address for notifications and are unaware of any notifications. Eventually the super is absorbed by the government at the farmers expense.



Regional Australia needs this backpacker work force to survive, its just that simple. Without them regional horticulture will fail because there will not be a workforce available to harvest crops like avocado, apples, mango and other crops that are hand picked.

**Name**

Michael Andreoli

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 6:47:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 6:50:27 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

We have tried to employ seasonal Australian labour and will take them when we have good candidates however many times they are not available in rural areas. We usually find that overseas backpackers are keen, interested and willing to work hard. We do object to paying super to backpackers.

**Name**

Robyne Webster

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 6:50:19 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Daly Waters Historic Pub

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Given our remote locality we would not survive during the peak season without the backpacker population We have great difficulty in attracting Australian citizens even though we offer above award wages.

**Name**

George Faessler

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 8:19:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRIA

**Written Submission**

Back packers should pay 10% tax and not be entitled to any refund. Example; He or she works 6 months, earns \$18000.00, pays 13% tax, \$2340.00, claims the refund \$2340.00 ATO gets 0 \$.

2nd example:

Backpacker earns 18,000.00, zero refund and ATO gets \$1800.00.

Result:

Backpacker happy , farmer happy , unions, not happy.

**Name**

James Hunter

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 8:13:00 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Easy Pickings Australia Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have been working in the industry for 4 years,I am convinced there is no adequate Australian workforce. The proposed changes will only encourage illegal workforce and cash payments. There is no doubt that the number of working holiday makers will decline significantly which will affect many vital Australian industries. Feedback from my workforce makes it clear that even these proposals of changes make Australia much less attractive than other countries such as New-Zealand and Canada.

**Name**

Helen Connell

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 8:33:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Submission to: Working holiday maker visa review.

From: Emeritus Professor Malcolm Skilbeck AO and Dr Helen Connell

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

August 31, 2016.

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission to this new enquiry into working holiday visas in Australia. In doing so, our main purpose is to argue for the reinstatement of volunteer work, as practiced in the Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF) movement, to count towards eligibility for renewal of a 417 working visa for a second year.

The international wwoofing movement contributes to Australia's economy and to its international competitiveness in attracting seasonal and foreign labour.

Wwoofing is not for everyone, but it is important to have a rich and diverse range of opportunities – from volunteering through paid work – in order to maintain a vibrant backpacker community within Australia.

There are many wwoof hosts, such as ourselves who, living on and maintaining smallholdings, produce goods (fruit, vegetables, flowers, plants, eggs etc) for sale or exchange at local farmers' markets. These markets are themselves fostered and encouraged by public authorities for their demonstrable local/ regional economic, social and environmental benefits.

On our smallholding we are not in a financial position to be able to employ backpackers (or anyone else) on a fully paid basis, but we do have quality accommodation and home grown produce to exchange for assistance in the form of labour. Over some four years, after joining the wwoof organization, our smallholding benefited enormously from a steady supply of wwoofers on 417 working holiday visas; moreover, we enjoyed the cultural and social exchanges with a range of young international visitors who in the main were from urban backgrounds. For these young people, wwoofing was only one part of their experience in Australia – but frequently the only exposure they had to life in an Australian family in a rural community. Most crafted a mix of paid and unpaid work as they travelled around the country. Wwoofing is equally available to Australians and provides opportunities for unemployed people to develop a range of marketable skills and capabilities. Wwoofers can readily transfer from the voluntary sector to paid employment and will have enhanced their employability through the experience and learning they acquire through working on properties such as ours.

While it is still possible for backpackers to wwoof, our experience – and that of many other wwoof hosts in this area – has been an almost total collapse of the number of wwoofers seeking work with hosts, effective immediately the new regulations came into force in 2015. This has been a serious threat to our ability to maintain a productive smallholding and to contribute thereby to the rural economy and social structure.

Wwoofing has provided access to a second year visa. In our experience this is a significant incentive which we wish to see restored. We request that this enquiry supports structured and regulated volunteer work in rural areas once again qualifying towards the renewal of a 417 working holiday visa for a second year's residence in Australia. We also request that its social and cultural benefits be thereby recognized as a significant asset, not only for the present international status of the country, but for its future.



**Name**

Jeff Biglin

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 9:11:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Woodlands EGT

**Country**

**Written Submission**

In regard to Q 7 I employ seasonal workers to pick rocks out of cropped paddocks and have never once had an Australian answer my ads.

**Name**

Douglas Fox

**Date Lodged**

31 Aug 2016 9:11:32 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

These temporary workers are potential citizens with their friends in the future.

**Name**

Jean Sloan

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 12:25:47 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I think backpackers should have same tax rates and super rules as Australian citizens.

**Name**

Nic Doyle

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 12:26:55 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

dubbo nominees trust fund

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I think more government effort needs to be focused on policing rules associated with visas, I also believe greater emphasis should be placed upon applicants suitability to work in certain sectors. More information needs to be given to candidates in regard to super, tax and Australian laws.

**Name**

Vincent Catania

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 1:17:46 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country****Written Submission**

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in tourism, pastoral, fishing and horticulture in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns. This gives our regional communities a boost and keeps the funds in Australia and in the regions.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops, serve food in our restaurants, cafes and pubs, they work in our tourism industry, support our pastoral and fishing industry.

WA has already seen a decline in backpacker number with just the threat of this tax. It is already having a significant economic impact and it will just get worse if the tax is implemented. The uncertainty needs to end now and this tax needs to be dropped.

.

**Name**

Brett Hamm

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 5:53:28 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

CANADA

**Written Submission**

Australia is an expensive country to live and work in. Taxing working holiday backpackers such obscene amount would ruin the backpacking in Australia. Personally, even with the low tax when I traveled I still struggled to travel and work on the incomes I was earning, and I don't drink, smoke, or have any other expensive hobbies.

Young people are looking to travel, work and save up money to continue traveling. Taxing workers 32% will ruin this. I can't even believe it is being thought about. I was even hit with a HUGE tax bill when I got back to Canada on the income I earned in Australia.

For the sake of the Agricultural industry, and future backpackers, please do not add on this ridiculous tax law.

**Name**

Richard Rudkin

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 7:13:24 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

EMRisk Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

There is wide spread abuse of foreign holiday makers by hostels and employers. Hostels manipulate opportunities and systematically erode the earnings with charges carefully designed to force vulnerable travellers to make payments like daily travel fees and meal charges combined with accommodation fees to maximise profits for the hostel at the expense of the traveller.

There are many scams utilising intermediary employers to hide cash payments avoiding tax and benefits to the employee, and wide spread bullying of employees including intimidation and deduction of compulsory fees.

The industry that has developed around the exploitation of holiday travellers is dishonest and exploitative.

This exploitation warrants investigation and improved controls.

Hospitality employers are often paying cash to avoid on costs like superannuation and workers compensation. The funds come from under reported income and is a significant area of tax avoidance.

This practice is already widespread and whilst increased taxes are likely to inspire more tax avoidance, it is already a major problem and may not be made worse.

A crack down on the cash economy in restaurant and cafe employers is long overdue. It is frustrating and unfair to honest employers to compete for workers some who prefer cash.

There is in my view, no reason what so ever that holiday workers should be given tax advantages over Australian residents.

There should also be more focus in improving workforce participation by Australians, many of whom could fill the jobs performed by holiday workers , but either feel they are above that work or prefer social welfare.



**Name**

zoe mitchell

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 9:08:18 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Although i understand your worry is some people avoid tax it is not fair to penalise everyone because of that. There are a lot of residents that avoid the tax system also.

I worked at a working hostel (dirty, unkept) picking strawberries for over 6 hours and earned \$21.40 (apparently legal, ha). To then tax me 32% on top of that is unfair and i could not survive. Myself and my friends have always paid tax and registered ourselves properly. Its is not a FAIR SHARE to pay 32%. It will drive people away, we have already agreed that if it gets changed we will be heading to NZ to work. No hesitation. Dont ruin a good thing and drive people away,listen to your farmers and the worry they have. It is very very real. Also bare in mind, all the money we earn goes back into our travelling here, local people,local jobs. It all benefits, dont shot yourself in the foot. More tax = less money = less money spent locally = less people.

**Name**

Alan Bryson

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 9:42:13 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Harbourside Homestay

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I firmly believe that 32.5% will disrupt the workings of Regional Areas, I do believe that tax should be paid but around the 18.5% area and also that Superannuation should not be paid as it is farcical. The 9.5% payment by the Employer may be direct to ensure that the proper rate of payment to the workers is enhanced rather than decreased. But the major problem faced in the Industry is that of LABOUR HIRE COMPANIES. It is common knowledge between parties involved in this area that these ONE YEAR registered Company's pay

a) Far less than the required rate of pay b) Have no workers compensation in place c) Deduct income tax without requesting a Tax Declaration Form from the Employee so where does the Tax go ? d) Do not make Super Contributions whatsoever e) Force the workers to live in overcrowded accommodation and charge far in excess of what it is worth (dirty and uncontrolled) and then the income from these overcrowded premises is not declared to the Tax department further proving that the whole Industry of Labour Hire Companies is a Taxation Fraud

**Name**

Shayne Heathfield

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 9:42:16 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

CANADA

**Written Submission**

Working holiday makers contribute to the Australian economy by spending all, or most of the money they make to support the local economy. By taxing them even further, it stretches the amount they are able to spend, often limiting their time in Australia and moving to more affordable area like New Zealand. Implementing this tax for backpackers is a slap in the face and I will be willing to forfeit my application fee (which happens to be the most expensive for all working holiday visas) and not come to Australia for a year or two because the tax will not allow me to fully enjoy the beautiful country that is, Australia.

**Name**

Steve Beatty

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:07:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am a mango farmer in the Darwin rural area. I have tried to employ locals in previous years, they have been very unreliable, show up late for work, demand to be paid in cash or don't show up at all. I have employed many foreign workers over the years to harvest my crop and always found them to be reliable, hard working and honest. I doubt I could operate my business without them.

**Name**

Martina Matzner

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:28:12 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

H4AAL2 Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australian workers are given the opportunity to work in the horticultural section, however usually they are not interested. Seasonal work is not attracting Australian employees.

We are relying on more than 200 seasonal workers.

Most backpackers have a good knowledge of the English language, which ensures training is understood and helps prevent accidents. Australia is loved overseas. Backpackers are our best advertisement for future tourism.

Money earned is spent in Australia helping local businesses.

If this tax comes into play we won't have enough labour!!!

**Name**

Steve Beatty

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:18:30 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Road Trains of Australia

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I manage a transport company in the Darwin Rural area. We employ around 50 people full time but also need casual labourers from time to time for general work around our depot, cleaning up, washing stock crates etc.

I approached Jobfind a few years ago and explained I needed workers. They advised that their clients would not be prepared to do this kind of work and wouldn't even take my contact details.

Since then have hired foreign workers who are only too happy to do these jobs. Have always found them to be very honest, hard working and reliable.

**Name**

Ashley Stewart

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:25:38 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

During the farming periods of seeding and harvest it is highly important that labour is available to assist with these jobs.

Often these jobs are for short periods of employment and in regional areas and Australian workers and/or their families can not or will not move to where the work is.

Backpacker workers are free to move around the Nation and take up these positions if not occupied by local workers.

They need to pay some tax but to tax them to the extent that is proposed will kill off this work force.

**Name**

Catherine Johnston

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:27:11 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

4. The number of working holiday-makers coming to Australia will decline if a 32.5 percent income tax rate is enforced.

The number of holiday-makers will not decrease however, the work sought will be towards cash in hand and away from the much needed rural areas.



**Name**

Tom Eastlake

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 11:15:39 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Cherry Growers Australia Inc

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The 'backpacker' is a significant issue to the horticultural industry. The industry has already seen the impact of this proposal with a full year of speculation over the tax by visitors to Australia seeking work under the holiday visa.

The industry continues to campaign against the backpacker tax and the widespread backlash against the tax is symptomatic to the impact it has had already and continues to have in the future. In 2015, the industry saw workers under the holiday visa cancel travel plans due to the backpacker tax and early discussions with employees in 2016 has indicated that people are indicating they will cease work at the start of 2017 when the backpacker tax commences.

This poses a massive threat to a horticultural industry that has already seen an unfair and disproportionate amount of focus, review and potential change in recent years.

The events of the last three years have been:

- The proposed introduction of the 'backpacker tax' - 2015
- The ACTU formally challenging and recommending specific changes to the horticultural award - 2015
- 3 years of Fair Work Australia audits – with a sole focus of horticultural production - 2013-2015
- Rationalisation and cancellation of harvest labour services across Australia including the two largest cherry production areas in NSW now having no harvest labour service – 2015

Given the progression of these events, it is evident that there is a focus at both state and federal level on horticultural employment.

Besides the four events above, the first quarter of 2016 also brought the publication of a senate report into holiday visas entitled: A National Disgrace: The Exploitation of Temporary Work Visa Holders."

This report included a number of recommendations including, but not limited to:

- Cancellation of the 2nd year visa
- Capping the number of applicants to the 417 visa
- Additional resourcing being made available to review the working conditions of all employees working under a temporary work visa – including the holiday visa

- Removing piece work arrangements

The final report will be handed down in October and the horticultural industry will wait to see what ramifications the final report will bring.

Fair Work Australia completed three years of review in horticultural employment from 2013-2015 with improvements recommended, breaches reported and corrective actions implemented.

Even with this extensive review, Australian horticulture continues to see policy change that either intentionally or unintentionally serves to threaten the viability of the industry. The ongoing ability of the Australian horticulture industry to continue to function will be directly linked to its' ability to find staff to undertake work. Without this, the industry will no longer be able to operate.

**Name**

Anne Loro

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 11:30:13 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Holiday Makers' tax should remain at 13%. This tax should be non refundable no matter how much they earn. While they are here in Australia, the backpackers are using roads, hospitals, etc and therefore their 13 % tax should be non refundable. However, their superannuation should be given to them while they are still here in Australia which they will then spend here before leaving the country.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 12:05:48 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS ISSUE DIVIDED.and THE 88 DAY SCHEME TAILORED TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT THE WWOOF / ORGANIC COMMUNITY/INDUSTRY

A) backpackers who work at high paid ,sought after city jobs like bar tending ,office etc should pay tax like any Australian.

B) HOWEVER backpackers who do low paid ,labour intensive rural jobs like orange picking should be exempt from tax. Farmers desperately need backpacker labour from the 88 day scheme.

C) ALSO I think that backpackers who are Willing Workers On Organic Farms ie. WWOOFers should be allowed to do 88 days of wwoof VOLUNTEER work in order to get their second year work visa.

ORGANIC FARMING is the way of the future. It is labour intensive as no weedicides or herbicides are used. No bees are killed. The food produced is 100% good for you. No downside from chemical contaminants.

Australian law should help organic farmers and their profile. OUR SMALL PROPERTY IS NOT COMMERCIAL but it is a haven for birds and wildlife in this ever increasing sterile and polluted world. The backpackers who have come through here to help with the fruit trees etc have been very good people, mostly extremely well educated and well travelled; who had no intention of becoming Australians or abusing the system. They just wanted the chance to work on the land .I would say 100% of the backpackers who " wwoofed" at our place enriched the local rural community. My family ,with the help of wwoofers since 2012, has been able to contribute to the environment through joining the organic wwoof community, protecting 5 acres of land from chemical contaminants ,grow organic food and by the way provides a safe haven for birds and creatures.

Since the law change the wwoof movement has been affected. I have had no wwoofers in 2016.

**Name**

Lawrence Ciantar

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 12:30:59 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Suncoast Harvest Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As employers of people in the horticultural industry, it is blatantly obvious that without the help from backpackers, there will be crops rotting in the fields, unable to be harvested. All farms are under financial pressure to perform for their financial commitments to banks etc, and have cropping in place to support such commitments. If for some reason (such as unable to harvest the crop due to lack of labour) they are unable to meet those commitments, the banks will foreclose on those farms. Seasonal work is not ideal for the simple reason that it is seasonal. Unseasonably bad or wet seasons, can cause irregular work, even at times of harvest, it can prove to be unreliable income for both farmers and employees. For this reason the harvesting jobs taken up by so many backpackers, is not necessarily suitable income for Australian workers who require regular income to meet their own commitments such as mortgage or rent, car repayments and living expenses. While there are some willing Australians undertaking the work, many are physically unable to undertake such work. Other negative experiences met by farmers are the amount of young able bodied people who are arriving at work under the influence of illicit drugs, and most family farms are not equipped to recognise the symptoms or even test for those substances. Some of the long term unemployed have been sent to our farm in previous years, and this is the type of problem we encountered. These problems seem to be less apparent in the foreign workers we have hired over the past 4 years. Whilst we still endeavour to hire as many local people as we can, the problem remains at the season end, when we have to let people go, and they go on to find more regular work. This leaves a shortfall the following season, and this is why we desperately need the help of backpackers at harvest time. I would like to see Australian Government adopt similar back packer tax rates to Canada or our closer neighbours New Zealand, and perhaps look at the policies of those governments as well. They seem to be coping nicely with foreign workers. Superannuation collected from backpackers could be retained by government as industry incentives either for employers of local workers or for employees in the "off" season. Government may also consider tax incentives for Australian workers in the horticultural industry such as salary sacrifice programs etc. Money could also be made available for such projects as 'on farm processing' which could provide work for a larger portion of the year. Finally, we have not been asked by one single politician about our own ideas for our industry...now wouldn't that be something which could enlighten all parties involved in such a complex issue???? Thank you for reading.

**Name**

Neta Lavender

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 1:54:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

GE & NA Lavender and Quindanning Tavern

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our business would suffer greatly if we could no longer employ backpackers and had to rely on local people. The mining sector has taken most of the locals from our area and in turn made sourcing suitable employees extremely difficult.

**Name**

Michael Drage

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 1:42:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We do try to employ locals but have found we need to employ backpackers as we cannot find enough reliable locals and a lot of the locals we have tried have been ""unemployable" I would like to see superannuation payments to 2nd year working holiday visas cancelled. I believe it is unfair that "backpackers" are able to claim this when they return to their country. I don't believe we should be paying for "backpackers" retirement!!!

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 1:47:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

In New Zealand workers who earn up to \$14000 NZD pay 11.95%.

If we taxed backpackers say 19% but they got Super of 9.5%, they may still come to Australia.

Our hourly rate of pay is higher also.

New Zealand is our closest competitor, keep an eye on them.

Backpackers are an essential labour source



**Name**

Martina Matzner

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 2:01:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

H4AAL2 Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We be relying on more than 200 backpackers for 3 months harvest every year.

Australians are not interested in temporary work and I don't see that as a fair arrangement for neither the Australian Worker, nor the business. What do they do after???

Backpackers usually have a good understanding of the English language, which helps in training and the reduction in work related injuries.

Most backpackers spend all their earnings in Australia, which supports locals.

**Name**

Paula Chapman

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 3:18:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

ROCKY PONDS PRODUCE (CHAP PAK PTY LTD ATF THE ROCKY PONDS PRODUCE UNIT TRUST)

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We have been employing seasonal workers for well over 30 years. Before 1975 when the working holiday maker program was introduced, it was extremely difficult to source reliable and continuously available employees. The government incentives to employ Australian unemployed people was very unreliable, and the people would only stay a couple of days at most. The nature of the horticultural industry is that a lot of the work is unattractive to people, being largely manual of nature, and also being seasonal, thus not attracting the genuine worker who requires year round employment. We are able to accommodate a core staff of workers who can be employed for much of the year and these people are all local employees. However the working holiday program is ideal for us as we can have a ready supply of young, fit and willing workers who are available for a few months work and then who happily go back to their chosen careers when they return to their own country. We have found these workers to be invaluable to our industry and with their injection of spending into the local and broader Australian economy they are also a great asset to Australia.

I would strongly suggest abolishing the superannuation contribution to foreign employees as this money is taken out of Australia and is not helping to ease the burden on the Australian economy of providing for the elderly. It would be far more appropriate to include some extra earning into the foreign workers weekly pay, which would then be taxed in Australia and probably spent in Australia.

**Name**

Peter Pegg

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 3:31:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I totally disagree in employers paying backpackers who are in Australia for at best 2 years Superannuation, surely there is some way we can take a visa number to identify they are not Australian.

**Name**

Jesse Sanderson

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:32:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

CANADA

**Written Submission**

I was a former working holiday maker in Australia on a 417 for two years. I completed the three months of regional work, and then some. I am very concerned for Australia if the government goes ahead with the plans to impose a 32.5% hike to Australian Working Holiday Visa Makers. This tax rate is huge! Absolutely insane to think that one could live with 32.5 cents taken from every dollar earned.

Think about it - The Great Barrier Reef is in decline and dying which will have a huge effect on Australia's tourism sector as millions flock to dive and witness the once beauty of the GBF. With the reef and this proposed tax hike, Australia will be hurt with fewer backpackers arriving to your shores with the hopes of making money and travelling this great country. I can guarantee that others will start to think about other countries where WHV's are tax appropriately and treated fairly.

I believe everyone should pay tax accordingly. I think that the current tax bracket for WHV is fair and just - the same as an resident of Australia.

I believe that the superannuation should stay in place for WHV as well - and tax them accordingly when the WHV makers leave the country like I was at 33% when I left Australia. If the government were to enforce employers not to pay superannuation to the WHV then that would allow the employer/company to take advantage of that superannuation over residents. This would potentially prompt fewer Australian's getting jobs over WHV makers as an employer would see it as an financial advantage to hire a WHV maker.

I'm glad that I have been fortunate enough in life to be able to go to Australia for the two years, travel around your great and diverse country and see all states/territories and I would hate to hear of someones dreams being taken from them because of this tax hike.

Sincerely yours, forever in my heart and memory,

Jesse Sanderson

**Name**

Domenic DeBoni

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:30:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

BAHAMAS

**Written Submission**

As an industry we need to focus on:-

- Feedback from backpackers is that they will not do the work if they are taxed at 32.5% from the first \$1.
- The scale of our farms and seasonality of our work in this district means it is unsuitable for most Australians as it is short term and irregular work – or peak demands cannot be met from the existing workforce.
- The use of labour hire companies is not widely supported due to lack of transparency on the terms and wages that they pay workers. Increasingly large customers such as supermarkets are strongly advising against the use of labour hire companies.
- The seasonal workers program is not beneficial to small growers as it requires you pay for air fares, accommodate workers and provide a minimum number of hours (35) work for the worker for a minimum period of six months. It is just not a viable option for anyone who has irregular work and variable harvests.
- Backpackers should have the same concessions as any other worker in Australia – ie. the \$18200 tax free threshold.
- The Taxation office could easily differentiate backpackers from non-residents by applying the tax free threshold to work from “personal exertion” therefore if people work for a living they are eligible for the \$18200 tax free, however non-resident investor income can continue to be taxed from first \$1.00
- Backpackers in general spend the money they earn in Australia, in regional areas on accommodation, food and visiting tourist areas, providing an economic benefit to regional towns.
- The area of superannuation for 417/462 Visa holders is an area that could do with reform as it is a waste of resources as we know that the majority of these people will not retire in Australia and the money is then withdrawn. This money could be put to better use as a fund for training Australians.
- The remoteness of our area (900 kilometres from Perth) and the sometimes challenging climatic conditions mean that we cannot attract vast number of the “unemployed” from Perth to work on our farms.
- The 417 and 462 Visa holders make up the majority of our seasonal workforce and without them we cannot harvest our crops.

**Name**

Kathryn Pardoe

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:47:17 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Written Submission**

The agriculture industry is incorrectly policed. The majority of work myself and friends were offered while in Australia was cash-in-hand so that the rural employers did not need to pay tax for the workers. It was done off the book to save them money and allow them to pay below minimum wage.

To police working holidaymakers before addressing the institutional inconsistencies is hypocritical. More backpackers will opt for cash-in-hand, further cementing the cycle, to avoid the higher tax rate.

Let it be known that backpackers are not tourists and they work to find their year, living in cheap, dirty accommodation and buying the cheapest food. We can not afford higher tax - new workers won't come, and if they do, they will likely be forced to leave Australia before their year is up.

Working holidaymakers are ONLY hired because we're cheaper. This new tax will kill work for the vast majority of us - it is a highly uneducated move.

**Name**

Graham Phipps

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:43:11 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

UNITED KINGDOM

**Written Submission**

Working on farms on a working holiday visa i found that the farmers and owners actually wanted backpackers to work for them. If this new law is made a lot of backpackers will be put off going to Australia, losing Australia money in tourism and the farmers losing workers!

**Name**

Ulrike Schick

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:46:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

GERMANY

**Written Submission**

Backpackers usually come to Australia to enjoy the country. They want to get to know the people, the landscape, get in touch with people from all over the world and gain life experience they won't be able to gain somewhere else.

They are willing to work for their own journey and in conclusion they are responsible for their time in Australia.

If the government comes up with such a high tax rate backpackers will have a hard time to save money. They will have to work for their everyday life only (rent, food, etc) but that's not what they come for to Australia. In fact they can do exactly the same in their home countries.

It is okay to pay a little tax but in the end backpackers always want to enjoy their time when traveling around. And for that they need to be able to save enough money.



**Name**

Kyla Schaan

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 4:52:59 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

A lot of business will not hire backpackers because we are only allowed to work for them for 6 months. Big Fruit/Veggie companies always treat their employees like slaves (which is us backpackers). Only small farms take care of their workers.

**Name**

Victoria Horunschi

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 5:12:51 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am currently a working holiday maker from Canada. I personally feel that the tax proposed could be considered theft and is completely unjust. That being said, I fell under the 18,000 threshold this year and if you wish to tax me a LOWER rate and not allow me to claim it that would be somewhat fair. In saying that you will be making a HUGE mistake allowing this outrageously high rate of tax to pass. I would NEVER do the type of hard work I am doing now for any less than I am currently paid and all of the people (about 150) at my working hostel agree. The agriculture industry and tourism industry will suffer greatly and to anyone who misses out on their chance to work in australia because of this would be a huge shame. I added the numbers and I pick 850 kg of cucumber (for coles/subway) a day. Thats \$15,000 per day based on coles prices. Times that by the 10 people working the farm and 88 days that is a LOT of revenue we are bringing into your country and it would be downright insulting to tax us 30% on that.

**Name**

Rosemary Barnes

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 5:17:12 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Industry is definitely not regulated enough there are certain areas of the country notorious for taking advantage of backpackers. Particularly areas heavily involved in hiring through contractors and working hostels. I myself and other backpackers I know have been through the experience of not getting paid for some of their work.

**Name**

Geoffrey Brun

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 5:24:44 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

FRANCE

**Written Submission**

As backpackers fill position that Australians are not interested in, they are useful for this country. That's why it's unfair to tax them at 32.5% from the first earnt dollar. If I knew that, I wouldn't had travelled to Australia: I would had worked at home to finance my next trip in South America...

**Name**

Lorelle McShane

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 5:43:11 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

McShane's Produce

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Australians already have equal opportunity to work for every farm, tourist industry, mining industry and every other industry in Australia. We publicly advertised for workers throughout our harvest season. Only .5% of applications are from Australians. 99.9% of the time they are offered a job, there is always an excuse why they can't come or you never hear from them again.

Backpackers fill this void and are essential to the viability and sustainability of the Australian horticulture industry. Rural towns benefit with the yearly influx of backpacker visitors whether it be on the farms or in the rural and remote hotels in rural and remote towns that Australians won't go to.

Harvesting vegetables is extremely hard yakka which Australians do not want to do and backpackers do the work to extend their visa and earn some money to travel to Australian tourist destinations and have an adventure they would never have before.

It is incredible that one LNP government understands horticulture while another doesn't.

Please don't jeopardize the Australian horticulture industry with this excessive tax. The horticulture industry supports taxing backpackers but not 32.5%.

**Name**

Kate Grace

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 6:08:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

It is unfair that people/backpackers on WHV should have to pay more tax than everyone else. Just because you want to visit another country to explore and see the different types of culture and work in a different place for 12 months shouldn't mean you get taxed more. Everyone should be treated fairly and we should be taxed the same as everyone else in Australia!!!!

**Name**

Fiona McDonald

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 7:11:22 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Vic River Unit Trust

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In relation to Q7. Australian workers should be given the opportunity to work, before the role is offered to a working holiday-maker.

I wanted to explain why I don't completely disagree /agree to this statement.

We don't discriminate when advertising or screening. The pure truth is that Australian's are fussy and take the job seriously or wish to relocate to areas such as ours with town that doesn't offer any rental options outside of the Hotel/Caravan Park and living expenses are very expensive. As an employer it is very hard for us to secure permanent employee's.

The majority of the Australian's that do apply are under qualified don't want to work hard and 98% of the time have a addictive habit that causes many workplace issues (Theft/Drug/Alcohol) this is a generalisation I know but very much our reality. We do have Aussies within our team but they aren't the majority, its the holiday makers make it in a place like ours. Not many Aussies see a career in Roadhouse work and that is fine but our customers don't want substandard service because the person behind the counter doesn't think their job is important and slap happy is good enough.

As an employer this is the face of my business, reputation is built on - we want people who want to be in the job and work hard and bring something fantastic to my customers experience. I personally think that the holiday maker is extremely important to the mental health of small rural communities bring a vibrant enthusiasm and skill sets we'd no normally see. They genuinely want to immerse into the community and hear the stories of locals and traditional owners. See the true Australia !! We see so many of our backpacker employee's return in their 2nd year for a further 3 + months which is a 2nd bonus as we don't need to retrain from scratch and the locals really enjoy seeing them back in the community. For a rural community it really is more than just a Tax

**Name**

Florence Bain

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 6:36:04 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I believe that the hire of WHV holders especially for farm work has been taken for granted in some areas. I did farm work in Mildura rural Victoria, the pay was the worst thing I have ever experienced being paid way less than the recommended amount however it didn't matter to anyone because it was cash in hand work. I worked for a farmer for a whole month, he always promised to sign my form for my 88 days he didn't want to sign it and continued to call me abusive names. Eventually he did sign it however I had to block him swiftly because he kept ringing me and sending abuse. The whole 32.5% of tax that will be taken with no chance of getting back is appalling, how are we supposed to be motivated to work honestly when we will be losing such a huge chunk of our hard earned cash.



**Name**

Adriana Stothart

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 7:53:04 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our strawberry farm employs local labour but we would never be able to pick or pack our crops without the extra working holiday visa employees

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 7:43:37 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

For 20 years I have employed 100+ young people from 26 countries. 99.9% were highly motivated and worked very hard for the 3-6 months sojourn with us. Who else, except the owners, wants to rise early and work in the cold and heat? These visitors became family friends whose families were delighted to welcome us into their homes. We are all the same under the skin - just different culture, language and customs.

RE the tax question. YES they should pay some tax. Most youth are adventurous and plan to see as much of Australia as their finances permit - whatever they earn they will spend HERE. One lad left with \$5000 but after 2 months he returned looking for work !!

We must remember too that young Australians should travel overseas. What will happen to their chances if Australia shuns their counterparts from other countries.

**Name**

Vanessa Kummerow

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 7:45:34 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Childers Eco-lodge Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We are a reputable working hostel and we only deal with farmers who pay hourly rate. These farmers all employ locals as their base staff, and use backpackers when locals aren't available in required numbers, or locals don't turn up/quit.

Spending by the local businesses which cater to backpackers will drop. Childers Eco-lodge has a buy local policy and we estimate that 70% of our operating expenses are spent in the local Childers area annually, and an additional 12% within the Bundaberg region. This amounts to \$115,000 direct spending into the region (2014-2015).

We estimate direct spending by our guests has injected \$660,000 into the local economy over the 2014-15 year. This is based on TEQ statistics on average stay in the region of 7.5 weeks, an average expenditure in the region by working holiday makers of \$3931 (Brabner 2009), and our 67% occupancy for the last year. It does not take into account additional spending by our short stay travellers.

We have already seen a decline in the number of backpackers in the area, and in those responding to the work available based on the possibility of the Backpacker Tax. Backpackers we have talked to say friends are deciding to not come to Australia. This has implications for the wider tourism sector as well as horticulture in our region.

**Name**

Tahlia Stothart

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:29:47 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I believe superannuation is an area that could and should be addressed. Superannuation is designed to be utilised for Australian's retirement. By paying superannuation to working-holiday makers, this money is going directly out of the country and not being used for it's intended purpose. I would rather see the tax rate kept at a reasonable level for working-holiday makers so that they can utilise their earnings to travel and re-invest money into Australia while they are here and have superannuation excluded from working-holiday visa employees. I see this as a much more reasonable option for both working-holiday makers and Australian's.

**Name**

Michelle McComb

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:25:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

On many fruit farms, the piece rate is way too low. It should be raised or removed in favour of a flat rate. I worked for only one week on a cherry farm in Young. The agency told me that I had a choice of flat rate or piece rate but when I got there most farms had piece rate only (and were the only ones left) As a beginner, I made about 8-10 dollars an hour and worked almost nonstop for 10 hours a day. the best and experienced workers (almost all workers were foreign) got about 15 dollars an hour. Most wanted to finish after 8 hours and were bullied into continuing to ten. There were no toilet facilities in the fields and most workers were living in tents/campervans and still had to pay \$70 a week to use the communal amenities.

From what i've read, these are common scenarios. Australians will not put up with conditions like these and shouldn't. Neither should foreign workers. If the tax is introduced, there most definitely will be less workers from overseas. If the pay increases to a flat rate of at least \$18 per hour, there will be more Australian workers in these jobs.

**Name**

Amy Reynolds

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:32:30 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a working holiday visa holder I have found it incredibly hard finding jobs. Despite over four years of experience in hospitality, I could not get a job in Melbourne. I was told over and over because it was due to my visa and they need people long term. I must have applied to over 100 jobs while I was there.

Before coming to Australia, I had never been rejected from a job and I have a 1st class degree from the UK and a wide range of experience.

If the 32.5% tax is brought in, I will not do my second year. This is because it is incredibly difficult to get a job that I am overqualified for. This combined with a wage which would be lower than in my

home country where I could do a 'decent job,' just means there would be no sense in staying.

Australia is a beautiful country with an amazing way of life but it is also expensive, you will see a huge reduction in working holiday makers if this tax is brought in.

**Name**

Gerald Lawrence

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:52:24 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I had a 120 bed working backpacker hostel in Tully, North Queensland, for 8 years (just sold). I experienced the effects of cyclone Yasi which wiped out the local banana industry for 8 months. Tully is a small town. The area produces 90% of the Australian banana crop. This is a "backpacker" town. If numbers are reduced by only a small percent, the town will die. Backpackers come to this town for 3 or more months to qualify for their second year visa. Backpackers spend almost all of their wages in the town and support and contribute significantly to the local communities. Australians of the same age are simply not willing to work hard. It is too easy for them to obtain social security payments and live a cushie life. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM MAKING SUPERANNUATION GUARANTEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VISA BACKPACKERS. THIS WAY, THE EMPLOYER WILL MINIMISE COSTS AND CONSERVE CASH FLOW AND THE BACKPACKER WILL HAVE NO SUPERFUND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXPORT WHEN THEY LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE NET RESULT IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL IN FACT OBTAIN A BENEFIT, LOWER COST STRUCTURE FOR FARMERS (I.E. INCREASED TAXABLE INCOME FROM WHICH TAX AT A HIGHER RATE MAY BE OBTAINED), AND THE BACKPACKER WILL HAVE MORE CASH TO SPEND IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE IT IS NEEDED.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 10:32:25 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

1. Working holiday-makers undertake work that Australians are unable or unwilling to perform.

The work is often no picnic and most Australians don't have the same incentive to do this work. Backpackers do the work because they want a second year in Australia, and their farm experience is part of their adventure, so they are willing to put up with a lot that they wouldn't tolerate at home and that Australians won't tolerate.

2. Backpackers should pay at least some tax while in Australia.

Backpackers don't use the same amount of facilities that Aussies do. They don't need schools, they have to pay for their healthcare unless their country has a reciprocal agreement, etc. Even their water/electricity/sewerage/ waste removal costs are usually allocated to their accommodation provider anyway - or should we be taxing all tourists staying in hotels as well? Backpackers should pay the same tax as any Australian, certainly not more, including getting the full benefit of the tax-free threshold. If they don't earn over the threshold they shouldn't be paying tax. They will generally spend at least the amount that they earn anyway, whether they have spent it already and are earning it back, or are earning it to spend later. Backpackers don't come here to get rich or even to save up for their future; they work to be able to afford to make the most of their holiday and to give them more to spend while they are here.

3. Working holiday-makers should be able to access their superannuation when they depart Australia.

It would benefit the Australian economy if they could access it at the end of the tax year, so they can spend it within Australia.

4. The number of working holiday-makers coming to Australia will decline if a 32.5 per cent income tax rate is enforced.

I have heard this repeatedly, first hand, from backpackers. There are other places they can go and Australia will no longer be a viable option. They are here primarily for a holiday, and it will be hard to pay living expenses if this tax is brought in, let alone have any funds afterwards for holidaying. While they are not working they are spending money that Australians don't spend - when an Aussie finishes their work they don't rush to spend their hard-earned wages on a hot-air balloon ride, reef trip, skydiving jump, outback tour etc - these tours are mostly very expensive, but backpackers are prepared to spend large amounts of money on these things, because that's exactly what they have earned it for: to enrich their holiday experiences.

5. Working holiday-makers contribute to regional Australia.



Hugely, not just by their labour, they also eat and sleep locally, contributing to their local economy, and they bring multiculturalism to rural communities who would otherwise not experience it. Tourists visiting your town does not add to multicultural understanding in the way that having other nationalities living and working and interacting in your community does.

6. Is it important that working holiday-makers spend time outside major cities.

Important for whom? Where they go should be their choice. The ones that are suited to farm work will choose farm work if the incentives are there.

7. Australian workers should be given the opportunity to work, before the role is offered to a working holiday-maker.

Australians ARE given the opportunity to do this work! The roles aren't reserved for backpackers alone: anyone can apply. Farmers often take steps to try and employ Aussie workers, but there are not enough Aussies prepared to do this kind of labour.

8/9/10 - no comment

Re backpacker tax in general: backpackers already seem to be treated and regarded as low-lives, and their inordinate spending (compared to their income) is usually ignored, or vastly underestimated, by the Australian public. Because they are routinely trying to live cheaply and stretch their budget, backpackers are seen by most locals to be a poor source of income, but while they are not working they are spending money, often on targeted expensive luxuries because they are on holiday.

We are already pretty bad at treating tourists with any kind of respect and when it comes to backpackers that respect comes very close to zero. Don't add to the unthinking message that is already driving our tourists elsewhere by slapping them with a tax they can't afford and which has little genuine justification. Our tourists should not be our scapegoats. We need farm-workers and we need tourists, and backpackers are both.

**Name**

Rick Scoones

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 12:47:26 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Topgrade Investments Trust T/A Warren Grange Horticulture

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The government claims to be concerned about rural mental health. If they truly are so concerned, then they must consider the following.

An unreasonable backpacker tax will drive away the key labour source for much of the horticulture sector. That has already begun, so you cannot debate that.

If there is inadequate labour for harvest, farmers will not realise the value of their crops, with enormous amounts of current season's crops being left in the paddocks. Future crops, which are the mainstay of rural landowners' income, simply won't get planted, and there are rarely alternatives that can be harvested with less reliance on manual labour.

If there is significant loss of income and incomplete harvests in the horticulture sector, the financial pressures resulting from those losses, forced property sales and reduction in property values will result in very rapid, very significant, emotional and mental health problems in the horticulture sector.

The end result will be a sharp spike in rural suicides. Are you prepared for that? Are you willing to risk that?

Make a decent decision, and make the backpacker tax no more than that applied to Australian workers, or, at the very worst, no more than 15% flat. Remove the rights to superannuation for foreign workers and give the farmers that break, fine, but don't stuff our sector simply because your fiscal management has been so bad that you have to grab money from anywhere you can get it. And give up blaming the previous Labor Government. You are at least as much at fault for the state of the budget.

You will not get anything like the \$540 million you have already banked in the forward estimates. The foreign workers staying away will see to that. On top of that, the damage done to rural communities will doubtless chew up much of what you might derive from a higher tax rate.

Make sensible decision, not one based in the money grab from the "soft underbelly" of the rural sector.

**Name**

Martina Rooney

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:23:38 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I feel 88 days regional work is too long as this work can take more that 3 months to actually do in certain jobs during to weather restrictions. 60 days would be long enough

**Name**

Sebastian Benke

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:52:42 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Why not take the superannuation of the backpackers as additional "tax". The employer has to pay it anyway and it could be used to stay at the same level of tax right know.

A tax of 25% for all backpacks with this system would be a good point, cause the super is 9,5% of the NET income with would be 7,6% of the Gross income, considering a status of residant for tax purposes of about 20%.

With this system also the taxback is 5% smaller, since its not 20 to 32,5 its 25 to 32,5.

It would be a "hidden" increase in tax but the backpacker would not feel it that hard.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 8:49:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

The problem with Australian workers is that they are not geographically mobile. They have family and friends in their immediate location and are generally not willing to travel several hundreds of km for a job that lasts on average 8 to 10 weeks. They may play with local sports teams and don't want to let their league down or leave a girl or boyfriend for weeks on end. Backpackers are willing to travel because they have no ties. They crave the experience and get to see and experience different areas. We have had not too many great experiences with the local jobseekers. Sometimes there is just the attitude to work that lets Australians down. Backpackers are an essential part of our grain production business. Even if we had no option other than employing locals there would not be enough of them to go around. Farming is so time critical and even a two week delay to get the crop in the ground when conditions are right hurts profitability. If we had to slow the seeding process down because of lack of labour we would be financially disadvantaged. The same goes for harvest!!

All but one of the backpackers we have employed over the years spends what they earn while they are in Australia. Local businesses benefit from them enormously! Having backpackers available for employment under the current system is a win win for agriculture and the Australian economy!! Don't try to fix what isn't broken please!

**Name**

Kevin Cock

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 9:35:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Sunraysia Citrus Growers

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Holiday-makers contribute to the regional economy eg;- Food, Fuel ,Repairs , accommodation , tourism.

We have developed long standing family / country relation ships . Family's have returned visits ,bring valuable tourist dollars many times over.

It has been great for young rural youth to widen their experience and international knowledge.

**Name**

Fiona Kotvojs

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 9:43:03 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

**Name**

Anja Kapelski

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 11:12:43 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a host family, so far hosting 15 au pairs and demi-pairs I can see that the introduction of the backpacker tax will bring the industry to a fall. Families are struggling already to fulfill the demand of au pairs who feel more and more entitled to money rather than focusing on the benefits this great opportunity brings.

We all love our au pairs and are happy to spoil those who put their heart into our families rotten.

But we like to be protected from unreasonable demands and entitlements just as well.

I feel for regional families who find it hard to secure an au pair and hope the government can give a 2nd visa for aupairing.

I like to see a framework with max allowed hours and max pocket money and in return see this being exempt from taxes which will bring back the quality we once had in our au pairs, who came for genuine reasons.

**Name**

Emma Tucker

**Date Lodged**

01 Sep 2016 11:36:17 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Rural childcare is impossible to get, and shift workers are part of rural NSW as much as the farmers they help with services like police, hospitals, ambos, fire etc. the introduction of the tax will make it harder to obtain, and will force some people to leave the country, and others out of the workforce



**Name**

Sharyn Carroll

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 1:52:40 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Many small farms and vineyards have always depended on international holiday workers to do jobs on those properties that many Australians will not do. The following three changes will impact negatively on Regional Australia - 1)the WOOFers can no longer get their time working on organic farms towards their Visas, AND 2) the Wine Equalisation Tax is reduced AND 3) International Holiday Makers being made to pay more tax will have a multilayered negative effect on small farming ventures all around Australia.

It is all fine and good to look at measures that will bring more \$s into the Budget. However, it is critical when doing the modelling that the modelling is NOT done on the measure itself but that the modelling also looks at the combine effects of ALL of the measures affecting any particular sector. This is especially so when the measures are coming from different Federal Departments.

**Name**

Samara Harris

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 6:07:23 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I beleive that everyone working in Australia should be entitled to the same super etc but Wouldn't it be beneficial to the Australian economy if working holiday makers could access their super whilst living and working in Australia. -instead they are accessing in their home country to spend in their economy. If they are allowed to access it before retirement age... It may as well be spent on Australian shores.

**Name**

Philip Spencer

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 7:25:39 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As a general observation, and excluding some groups from Pacific island nations,

- Backpackers have not come to Australia to make money, they have come primarily as tourists
- Consequently, they have come with saved money, and expect to go home with reduced funds
- Backpacker work is undertaken to extend the time they can afford to spend in Australia
- This means that they will spend a considerable proportion of any money earned in Australia, in addition to any money previously saved for the trip
- This represents money circulating in Australia that would not otherwise enter the economic system (a proportion of money paid to non-backpacker employees will be saved by those employees towards other needs, while (as previously observed) the backpacker tourist expects to return with less funds than when they arrived)

It seems to me (a layman) that alteration of the existing backpacker tax systems to those proposed will discourage backpacker workers to the extent that tax revenue is unlikely to increase and may even decrease. Certainly the amount of money circulating in the tourist industry is likely to decrease sharply, as (1) some backpackers will feel it is not worthwhile to work to extend their holiday, so will spend less money; (2) those that do work will receive less money in hand, thus have less money to spend; and (3) some backpackers will feel that other countries offer better value for their money and efforts, so not come to this country at all. Speaking of cash in hand, the temptation to do unregistered work (illegally avoiding the taxation systems) would be higher if the tax was at a higher rate, with less prospect of any tax refund because the tax threshold did not apply.

It does not seem to me "unfair" that a backpacker is less likely to reach the normal tax threshold because they may not be in the country for a full year. An otherwise unemployed Australian who works part time on those type of jobs will similarly be unlikely to reach the tax threshold. Further, we expect the backpacker to spend their untaxed earnings anyway, which benefits tourism and other industries to the extent that the tax revenue forgone can be regarded as "money well spent".

**Name**

Neville Hawkins

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 7:43:21 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Overseas workers are being given jobs and not paying tax while unemployed Australians are being paid Newstart Allowance and not being given jobs. This makes no sense as the Australian taxpayer is subsidising one to work and at the same time subsidising the other not to work. People on Newstart Allowance should be given any job they are capable of performing. In my local area, Coffs Harbour, there are numerous farms with year round work available yet young, physically capable people remain on Newstart while labour hire companies bring in hundreds (if not thousands) of overseas workers and backpackers. Local Job Network companies don't seem to direct local fit and capable unemployed people to farm work. Local farmers should employ local workers first.

**Name**

Matt Hastwell

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 8:16:21 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name****Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The proposed backpacker tax will have a devastating effect on regional areas where horticulture/agriculture play an important part. There are many stories where people are unable to fill jobs due to the uncertainty about this tax.

In the horticultural industry, there are 40,000 jobs. 35,000 of backpackers/wwoofer perform this work, because Australians do not want to work. Simple.

When are politicians going to start listening to the very people who elected them as their voice?. Our local backpacker hostel is almost empty as backpackers are not sure of the outcome will be.

The WWOOF organization is one such organization that has seen the direct effect of this proposal. Backpackers (affectionately known as wwoofers) come to Australia. They stay with Australians, perform some work and in exchange free board and lodgings are provided.

This is ideal when the backpacker wants to save some money. They spend money in the community.

I am a Wwoofer Host and since the proposal was first announced, I have seen a 100% reduction in enquiries from wwoofers coming to my property. I normally have people here all year round. I rely heavily on the wwoofers to help.

Wwoofers and Backpackers also spend money whilst they are here and they pay GST on their purchases. So the net multiplier effect of the thousands of wwoofers and backpackers spending their money in Australia is just incredible.

The wwoofers/backpackers see what a great country Australia is, and will directly influence their friends/family to visit Australia. What great ambassadors for Australia and it is free. Increased visitors is good for the economy. It creates jobs and sustains jobs. Simple

If the tax is introduced, the net effect will be devastating. The wwoofers/backpacker numbers will decrease sharply as it already has. So the tax revenue the government projects they will receive, will be reduced and furthermore the money that the wwoofers/backpackers would spend in regional areas and support the local economy is also reduced. The absence of this money/multiplier effect means loss of jobs in regional areas.

Why would a government deliberately reduce jobs and reduce regional economies? The current federal government went to the last election on a mantra of jobs jobs and regional economies. Now we are facing a broken election promise.

I urge the policy makers not to introduce the backpack tax ever.

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

**Name**

Michael OCallaghan

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 9:16:27 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Cally and Co PTY LTD ( ABN 71155311768)

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

A few points

- When advertising for a part time seasonal job on our farms in the Coorow Shire we only get one Australian citizen applying for every 300 overseas applicants.
- We are inland and 90km from the nearest big town. We get no interest from Australians to work here.
- There shouldn't be any superannuation paid to workers on a "working holiday visa" (WHV)
- We rely on overseas workers they are vital to run our business. Please ensure a supply of WHV people are available to us as without them we WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RUN OUR FARMING BUSINESS !!
- I would like to see the 457 and other visa systems made easier.
- I want the ability to bring previous staff back from overseas for a three to four month working period after they have completed their second year WHV.

**Name**

Kylie Ammerlaan

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 11:13:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Agribusiness Yarra Valley Inc

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

3. Working holiday-makers should be able to access their superannuation when they depart Australia.

Currently superannuation remitted to the ATO by employers for working holiday visa holders, is a windfall to the ATO as very few workers will be aware of how to claim the super paid on their behalf. Given that these visa holders are only temporarily in Australia it would be logical that superannuation does not need to be paid on their behalf. However if the government insists that super be remitted for temporary workers then workers should be able to access their super when they depart the Country.

The issue is complicated. Theoretically foreign workers should not be paid Super. This could put local workers at a disadvantage in a competitive workplace. The government needs to be creative in this space. The issue is wider than just backpackers. If the ATO collected the funds from foreign workers super and used it effectively to support useful employment related programs then possibly everyone could benefit.

7. Australian workers should be given the opportunity to work, before the role is offered to a working holiday-maker.

Agribusiness Yarra Valley agrees with this statement. This however does not change the fact that in many many circumstances Australian's are not willing to do the manual labour, with long hours, exposure to weather conditions that backpacker workers are willing to do.

Accommodation and transport is still a serious issue limiting both Australians and backpackers from working in areas where suitable services are not available. Perhaps the local Shires can be delegated with the responsibility of declaring which parts of their (or all) have labour shortages. There is not time for a farmer to 'advertise' for Australians, not get a response then go searching for backpackers. The whole working visa extension system was set up for the very reason that farmers cannot get staff and it has been a good solution. It needs to be widened to include more postcodes.

8. The labour hire industry is sufficiently regulated with respect to working holiday-makers

Not aware of what regulation there is in regard to this issue. There is certainly room for improvement.

9. The amount of red tape involved in employing workers is about right.

Far too much red tape and government/union interference.



10. I am aware of government programmes to help people in seasonal and temporary jobs.

The NHLIS is a useful tool for many regional agriculture regions, however being a nationwide service smaller regions are less inclined to post jobs to the service due to concerns with inundation of job queries. The Yarra Valley (including Dandenong Ranges) was previously recognised as a Harvest Labour Area and the Employment National division of Centrelink ran a Harvest Trail Office in Lilydale. The recognition of the region as a Harvest Labour Area lapsed when Employment National was closed.

Since the local Harvest Office closed growers are not co-ordinated in seeking seasonal workers. A locally run service can better understand the level of labour requirements for the region. This is the case in peri urban areas such as the Yarra Valley where greater awareness of the range of individual growers and labour demands provide a better matching service between grower and employer. The closure of providers which had received government funding to provide labour services has resulted in both growers and backpackers unable to be suitably matched for available work. A good website or app could be an accessible and cost effective alternative to a Harvest Office.

Uncertainty of available suitable future seasonal labour sources substantially hampers growers when future planning to expand their business. Berry and tree fruit operations that are looking to expand their business cannot do so if labour shortages may occur.

The second working holiday visa is also an issue for the Yarra Ranges region. Only three postcodes in the region are available for working holiday tourists to work and receive the 2nd working-holiday visa. Much of the area in which intensive horticulture occurs that uses the largest quantity of backpacker labour are not in these postcodes.

Being able to attract overseas visitors on Working Holiday Visas is critical to the on-going viability of these industries, particularly those of a strongly seasonal nature for harvest and packing of produce. Seasonal workers are required daily in the six key months of the year to pick and pack the products of the above crops. Backpackers and itinerant workers formed a vital 17% of this seasonal workforce, because picking or not picking this proportion of the crop largely determines the profit or loss of the enterprise.

Without a Labour Harvest Office and co-ordination on available work many visitors have not stayed long due to the lack of communication on available work resulting in both a workforce issue and loss of spending by the visitors and workers staying in the region, benefiting the local economy. The other problem the Yarra Ranges Region faces is the lack of affordable transport and accommodation, affecting both local and foreign seasonal workers.

**Name**

Nicole Kofkin

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 9:52:54 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Smart Cultural Exchange PTY Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Au Pairs look after Australian children and live in the home of the Australian family and yet would be denied the right of the tax free threshold. How can that be justified?

The au pair program is a cultural exchange rather than a job and due to the live in element the relationship is totally different from employer/employee and cannot be treated the same way, they should be treated as a family member who is given pocket money or spending money to enjoy time in Australia. Host families often take the rough with the smooth and manage homesickness and celebrate birthdays together on days off. Australia should have a separate visa for au pairs, however failing that, at least recognise them as exception to the 'work' rule.

**Name**

Mark Adams

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 10:34:40 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

My suggestion is that there should be no requirement to have superannuation for temporary work visa holders that come to Australia to work.

And a tax rate then set at around 15% be set, to offset the benefits they receive in this country re health etc.

By doing as I have suggested then the visa holders will most likely spend all of their Australian wage payments in Australia thereby attracting more tax from the business that receives this money.

Regards Mark.

**Name**

Denis Glismann

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 10:36:23 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

If there will be backpackertax I will definitely not come back to Australia for my second year which I was almost sure to do as I would get the same job on a farm in Tasmania again. And i know a lot of backpackers who feel that way about it. There are other options.

**Name**

Barbara Terrell

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 11:12:39 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Superannuation should not be paid to temporary workers . If it is paid it should transfer back to their home superannuation fund.

**Name**

Mark Hudson

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 11:19:04 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Pemberton Visitor Centre

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Being a tourism town with attractions of:

Timber, Farming and Wine, local cafes, hotel and restaurants the availability of a labour force that is able to stay for considerable lengths of time is extremely important to the viability of the businesses in operating profitably and having staff in the first place.

Without backpackers we do not have an adequate labour supply to run our local businesses.

**Name**

Romana Vlcek

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 12:41:05 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

WWOOFing and other volunteer work should be again counted towards the second year visa, PLEASE! Without that, the government is forcing small organic farmers who cannot afford to pay wages to make arrangements with backpackers, in which they must pretend that they have paid wages by issuing payslips and doing all that stupid paperwork, otherwise they can hardly get any help. I have even been even approached by backpackers who OFFERED me money if I would forge payslips for them! (Of course, I denied such offers.) But without such "tricks", the future looks sad, because WITHOUT VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS HELPERS, MOST ORGANIC FARMS IN AUSTRALIA WILL DIE!

To explain it on my example: I am leasing an olive grove with 1800 trees and do biodynamic, chemical-free agriculture to produce organic olive oil. This does not make me any profit, but by now I have managed at least to make income and expenses go even with the help of volunteers.

There are two ways how to harvest olives:

1. You order in a harvesting machine with one local operator. The machine grabs the tree by its stem, spreads an upside-down umbrella around the tree and shakes the tree very strongly. The olives fall down into the umbrella and are collected in a container via a chute. The machine does about one tree per minute and can harvest a grove like ours within two days. This is a profitable way of harvesting. The downside: Healthy olives will not fall down when you shake a tree by its stem. They will hold on to their branches! Otherwise every storm could destroy your harvest! Therefore farmers who machine harvest, must spray the trees with poison about a week before the harvester comes. Because only very sick, dying and dead olives will fall off the trees when you shake the stem. The poison from these poisoned, dead olives then goes into the olive oil and into the human body. And the government can get ready to pay for the cost of the increase of cancer and heart disease!

2. You invite four to six international volunteers to spend the harvesting season on your farm. If each of them works half a day every day, they will collect all the olives from the trees in about four months from April to August. These olives will be healthy, alive, vibrant, plump, and full of nutrients. They will have all the medicinal powers which olives are famous for, and will pass these powers on to the organic olive oil which health-conscious people buy. Some people go through great efforts and costs to obtain such clean, healthy, poison-free foods. I regularly post 20 litre drums to families in big cities even interstate. 85, 90, 95 year old people come here to pick up the oil, swearing that they have reached their age in good health only thanks to poison-free eating. Also the volunteers benefit. While my budget only suffices to give them free accommodation and good home-made and, of course, poison-free food, and I cannot give them

any money, they get on top: an amazing improvement of their health during their stay (in physical and mental health - many got rid of allergies, asthma and other so-called incurable diseases), natural English learning, making friends with locals, learning to run a household and a farm, learning how to use various tools and look after animals, beautiful and fun work experiences like bottle-feeding baby animals or riding on grass-movers, lots of free time to go to the beach and explore sights, a safe family environment, help and guidance while their host introduces them to the Australian way of living and prepares them well for their travelling after their WWOOFing stay.

Local unemployed people have no interest in all these volunteers' benefits, as they have families and homes here anyway, and therefore we really must rely on backpackers from overseas. We organic farmers need them! And the second year visa is a much higher stimulus for them than a little wage. And they can get only a little wage, if they have no skills and work slowly and have to be trained first. And those very, very few jobs with \$20+ per hour which only huge commercial chemical-based farming companies can pay, are not enough in numbers to employ all those young people who would like to stay in Australia for one or two years. Therefore, PLEASE spare us "tricking around" and the silly paperwork and count volunteer work for the second year visa again.



**Name**

Tom Cush

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 11:54:55 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Pechelba Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I run a 2500ha irrigated cotton farm, during the millennium drought most of the skilled irrigators left the industry, some to mining, some to cities. It is now extremely hard to find good men, and impossible to find willing Australians for siphon irrigation, which involves repetitive physical labour and a lot of time on a shovel, in hot conditions. The mentality I have seen in Aussie workers is its too hard, I don't want to do that, I'd rather go on the dole than shovel rows. WHVs on the other hand are enthusiastic, always have a positive can do attitude, and are willing to perform any jobs I ask of them.

The backpackers i employed last year expressed a view that 32.5% tax would deter friends of theirs from coming to Aus. A 15-20% rate would be fair and keep us on par with nz and Canada.

If this tax goes through at 32.5% it will be extremely hard for us to find labour, and be extremely detrimental to the wider agricultural industry. We think it's hard to find Aussies to irrigate I'm bloody glad I don't have to find Aussies to pick fruit because that would be downright impossible.

Rather save money by getting on top of the welfare problem in this country, because why would someone bust their ass on a cotton farm for 70hrs+ a week when they can get a house and benefits for sitting around doing nothing.

**Name**

Aukje van Vark

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 6:38:48 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Cockatoo, 2 September 2016

Trickle Hill, Aukje van Vark

Dear Sir, mrs, Miss,

We own a farm in Cockatoo, Victoria.

Over the past years we have worked towards building up a training facility for horses, and a woodworking studio, working towards being an income earning business. To have the time to do this, we relied heavily on volunteer backpackers, who did the menial tasks that are essential to living on a large property, but which take time. Time that cannot be put into building our business. The advantage for our backpackers, was that they learned new skills, often even just getting used to working physically, doing regular hours and the importance of finishing a job. They also experienced Australian life, the importance of consistency in animal care. Another bonus was that they could earn their second holiday visa while working in a friendly environment. Our advantage was that wood chopping, mucking out, weeding, feeding our meat animals, and vegetable garden care freed us to work towards our business, for a manageable cost; feeding and housing friendly people.

Last years changes have seriously impacted on the availability of this type of temporary labor, causing us to have to fold out ideas of starting our own business. Many of my friends and acquaintances are suffering the same fate; they are doing their own maintenance again, and not putting in the hours to build their fledgling businesses, causing many not to earn a suitable income anymore.

At the moment we are travelling - we now have the time, having stopped our own business development- and while seeing large parts of (mainly West) Australia, we have come to realise, that the problem (or impact ) goes much further then realised. Australia and its income in this area largely depends on backpacker labor.

Take the Nullarbor- all roadhouses on it have backpackers behind the counter, in the kitchen and cleaning the accompanying campsites. This actually goes for every single roadhouse we have visited in the past 5,5 months. Agriculture in WA- the wheat fields are harvested by backpackers. Fruit in the Kununurra area; Backpackers. Cows get milked by backpackers, Broome and surrounding area thrive on backpackers- people working behind the counter and doing tours are backpackers. Hostels earn their money and get their staff out of backpackers. All campsite we visited have backpackers welcoming people, and cleaning. Every single tourist attraction has backpackers behind the counter, guiding tours, selling products- making things

work. Eating out, we get served by backpackers, and that is as much in the south as in the west or north.

Now- as we worked our selves with backpackers in the past 6 years, I know that these people are coming here because it is good earning, and Australia is such a magnificent country, that they often want to stay here longer then planned- which costs money, and they need to earn that. Although a small part will take part of this money on travels outside of our country, most will spend this money in Australia again.

I also know all the stories about fruit picking places that will abuse this willing young and unorganised group of people; charging them exorbitant rates for accommodation when there is no alternative, paying per tonne, which somehow ends up being a very low per hour rate- forcing them to stay on rainy days, but not giving them work, and not signing off on days they are available for work, but not offered any- while still having to pay their accommodation on site. Organised crime in hostel/orchard businesses. Circumstances for many backpackers are bad- but they cope as they need to have their second holiday visa- and employers know this. Especially now their alternative; working for free in a teaching environment- is taken away last year.

The new tax plans are again forming an obstacle for young people honestly trying to earn some spending money to stay longer in this country. They are being punished- for what? The new tax rules are treating them as the milking cow some employers see them as; come here- do our work we can't find anyone for, save our rural economy, but take as little out of it as you can- is what it is conveying. This may be an unwanted side effect. At the moment already, in the diverse backpackers forums on social media, and on various immigrant sections, the question is coming up; Is there any point going to Australia- will I earn any money- what will I have left after taxes?

Now, while travelling, I realise that a large part of Australia will not function anymore when the number of backpackers will decline. A large part of our produce will not be harvested anymore, roadhouses will not get personnel anymore, all businesses that thrive on seasonal cheap labour- will not be able to get it. Or- will have to offer more money. As if the base sum rises, the amount after tax will stay reasonable. Meaning that wheat, fruit, vegetables, beer, meals, fuel, accommodation etc prices for every person in Australia (not only backpackers) will have to rise, after all, the money to pay employees has to come from somewhere. So; businesses that at the moment are actually earning money will either fold, or struggle even more, just like so many fledgling businesses that were relying on volunteers, or be forced to raise the price of their service, whatever it may be.

I can only ask you to reconsider- don't change the tax rules for temporary international travelling labour- and maybe even- consider rethinking your working holiday visa rules. That would really help a lot of small businesses that are at the moment flying under the radar- as they are struggling to stay above water, or rethinking the future of their business.

Aukje van Vark

**Name**

Ray Stubbs

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 12:42:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC)

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

RAMROC represents the interest of 14 Member Councils and their communities across the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Lachlan River regions of South West New South Wales. The region produces a wide range of agricultural, horticultural and viticultural produce, all of which rely heavily on the availability of working holiday visa holders (Backpackers). In addition, the region has a very strong tourism and hospitality industry, again with very substantial engagement of "Backpacker" international employees.

There are already indications that backpackers are being deterred from coming to Australia because of the likelihood that their earnings will be heavily taxed, perhaps as high as 32.5% from the first dollar earned. Any level of taxation will be a deterrent, but to tax these people at a substantial taxation rate higher than other countries will clearly devastate regional food producers and the tourism industry and impact greatly on the capacity and sustainability of those farming and tourism businesses.

It should also be borne in mind that backpackers generally spend most, if not all, of their wages within Australia and thus contribute to the national economy and GST income. This needs to be encouraged.

Backpackers are also great ambassadors for Australia's international image and reputation. Word of mouth promotion of Australia as wonderful destination for international visitors comes free and at no marketing cost, so it is very important that every endeavour be made to grow the backpacker industry and not destroy it.

We all know the power of perception, so if Australia is perceived as taxing backpackers and thus discouraging them from coming to our country, the adverse impacts across all sectors will be significant.

At the local Council level, there is great concern about the issue and potential flow-on effects on local businesses. Councils have pointed out that there already is an acute shortage of labour at certain periods of the year.

Local farmers are therefore keen to provide backpackers accommodation in buildings on their farms and Councils have facilitated this type of accommodation as an approved development in production zones under Councils' Planning Schemes.

Finally, the point is made that if the Australian Government introduces a backpacker tax, it runs the risk of being uncompetitive to attract people under the Working Holiday Visa Program, in

which case the revenue from income taxation will be far less than may have originally anticipated.

**Name**

Christine Graham

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 1:52:53 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers pay rate should be based on the normal wage rates for the industry they work in. A superannuation equivalent premium should be added to their wage to make it equivalent to Australian workers and then no superannuation deposited into a separate account that charges are deducted and may never be claimed by the overseas worker. (and removing the amount of paperwork required by our business)

Backpackers should pay a flat rate of tax. I think that it should be 20%. If they use our hospitals they pay out of their insurance or cash. They don't use our education system etc, but someone has to help pay our bureaucrats wages to implement policies and push paper from one side of the desk to the other.

In regards to offering the job to Aussies first, it really isn't practical. 1. Anyone with the skills required for our business (not fruit picking) will be snapped up in full time employment. 2. If someone is on the dole - a job for 4-6 weeks will not warrant dealing with the paperwork to leave the dole and then reapply and they are unlikely to have the skill level required. 3. Most of the backpackers we employ have some farming or machinery background - they are skilled (without a piece of paper saying so) are on a working holiday (to fund their holiday and spend it all before they leave) and return home to full employment back home.

The question regarding red tape is pointless - do you mean "do we have too much red tape". My answer is please don't apply more red tape - your job is to remove it.

**Name**

Dave & Liza Balmain

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 1:35:28 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As Cotton Farmers we rely heavily on backpackers for seasonal work, which we struggle to fill with local Australian workers. We find local Australian workers are looking for more long-term permanent positions whereas we have a requirement for short-term harvest work.

If the Backpacker tax of 32.5% were to be introduced we believe this would have a detrimental effect on the number of backpackers available to carry out seasonal work in rural Australia.

**Name**

Trevor Hall

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 1:18:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I believe that working holiday visa holders should be issued with a card that identifies them to employers stating their full particulars and their eligibility to work. They would have the 13% tax deducted as with Australian workers.

The employer would deduct their Superannuation and place it into a government fund set up to fund research for that industry, saving the government tax money. People holding a working visa card would not be able to claim the tax free threshold. Maybe a simplified tax or income form would have to be filled out when they leave.



**Name**

John Odell

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 1:53:36 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Cherryhaven Orchards Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We as a company absolutely depend on backpackers to pick and pack our fruit in order to get it to market to earn an income.

We have been working tirelessly for many years to open overseas markets to improve our country's gdp and export earnings and also to stay in business. We cannot survive on the low prices in the domestic Australian economy. The Aust govt has also been crowing about all of the 'Free Trade Agreements' it has secured with overseas countries.

Our company has invested millions of dollars in this orchard in order to make a profit, employ more people, improve export earnings for Aust. and develop this area of the Horticulture industry.

You can forget Free Trade Agreements, earning export dollars, improving Aust gdp, employing more people etc if I cannot get my fruit picked and packed ready for shipment to domestic and overseas markets. We will sell up, if we can find a buyer, and join the dole queue as will my hard working permanent Australian workers all who value their jobs here at Cherryhaven.

If you deter the backpacker workforce which is vital to my industry and which through social media chatter has already happened then God help this hopeless country and you politicians will reap what you have sown.

John Odell

**Name**

silvana styles

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 2:37:13 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I am actually an horticultural worker permanent resident of Australia and this backpackers have taken my job I m now unemployed.I done harvest work all my life and I am now 54 and fit and healthy to continue but this farmers prefere backpackers only because they are disposable ,they came in droves,sack ten today and the will be 20 new tomorrow.I seen the transaction of the harvesting work in the last thirty years from strong Australian citizen to a wave of refugee from China,Iraq,Afghanistan .The crops on orchards and vegetables paddock always came off there s never been a red carpet roll over for us like this backpackers have.We were treated like scum,drug up hippyes on the dole but not true because me and my husband and lots of other people settle in harvesting town and we bought property ,grow our children and contribute to this towns that now are chuck in us on the hip.Also my children now in they late twenty came off school ,started on the farm ,then was the booms of the mining industry and they got in the mine but now they also need work and happy to do farm ,hard picking breaking back hard work because they know it ,they good at it ,they strong and they are young Australian try to get some work but they also find it difficult.I seen it all in this farm ,I am here in Bowen the town of tomatoes and mangoes and I seen farm employ just young girls only girls backpacker then the bosses taken them home and etc..The islanders can do this work,the refugee ,people like me that love horticulture and work hard and all the people unemployed in the last few years.If you want more information please contact me and please let me have my job back .I have been unemployed for last six months on a harvesting town were thousand of foreigner are employed

**Name**

Lisa Jeitz

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 2:42:10 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Jeitz Nominees Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I have employed over 70 working holiday makers in the last 10 years. I believe only 1/3 of them have claimed their superannuation as their super correspondence constantly comes to our mail box. I have ensured they are aware of this. If they don't claim it the govt doesn't get the tax revenue and this is wasted expenditure for the farmer and lost revenue for the government. If we don't have to pay the super maybe we could pay more? The holiday makers generally spend all of what they earn while in the country.

All our full time permanent staff are Australian. Australians don't want the skilled SEASONAL regional jobs regardless of pay rate. The profile who take up our jobs are 18-25 year olds from the northern hemisphere who are gaining experience in high tech agricultural plant operating positions before returning to their own agricultural businesses, studies or ag industry careers. We need motivated, educated, hard working people who are financial able to work in remote areas for 3 months then move on. There is not a harvest trail in grains as the window is simultaneous for most of Australia.

**Name**

Gavin Clark

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:03:41 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Murrakei Family Trust

**Country**

**Written Submission**

We have started up a new enterprise and invested and investing millions of dollars into the berry industry and have already had last seasons people approx. 200 working holiday visa workers many who have admitted they would not come to Australia with such high taxes imposed on them. We would be devastated if we were not able to access these workers as local worker chose other types of work.

**Name**

Alexander styles

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 2:57:27 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I am a farm worker living in my home town of Bowen and I cannot find work in the farm. The downturn of the mining industry left a lot of young people in this town with no jobs and I am happy to pick fruit or vegetable because that's what I did straight out of school and if the idea that only backpackers can do it and no us young people without work is nonsense fabricated by farmers because they cant choose, they cant work with backpackers hostel and say I want all this ten girls for a plant out because the public don't know what is going on but we always live and work here and we know. There s more much more going on, the miss interpretation of the horticultural industry, the treatment of workers, I have a story to tell but the fact is I am 27 years old cant get a job on the farm and lived all my life in a horticultural town. Umbelivable please fix this problem

**Name**

Nicholas Bligh

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 4:57:11 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

As an employer in the Table Grape Industry, we rely on backpackers to supplement employees from the local area. We find many of the locals to be very unreliable workers who try and collect the dole as well as a few dollars of wages to satisfy their requirements to look for work to claim Centrelink payments. We are expanding our operations and will need more workers in the future, and reliable workers are becoming harder and harder to find each year. Experienced workers now make up less than 30% of our workforce.

In 2013-2014 year we employed 36 Backpackers (32 Europeans and 4 Asians)

In 2014-2015 year we employed 33 Backpackers (16 Europeans and 17 Asians)

In 2015-2016 year we employed 15 Backpackers (2 Europeans and 13 short term Asians)

We found it very difficult to find decent workers in the 2015-2016 year so had to resort to a motley crew of fairly lazy and unreliable workers. Although most backpackers are inexperienced, they at least WANT to earn money to continue their travels. They spend most of the money earned in the local towns, which is fantastic for small towns like St George.

As can be seen from these numbers, the European backpackers especially, have been scared off by just the threat of higher taxation.

I believe the tax for backpackers should be in the range from 15% to 19% at the very most, and from day 1, not after 3 months work at a higher rate. There should be a separate, simplified employment declaration form to cover backpackers only. It would have many less boxes to tick. Questions 3 and 6 to 11 could be omitted, and a space for email addresses added, as most backpackers do not have an Australian address, and I have an office full of unclaimed mail for backpackers from the last 30 years of collecting their mail for them from the ATO, Superannuation companies, banks and fine collection agencies- what a waste of paper, time and all for no purpose as they are not interested in this mail most of the time.

On another related note, Superannuation is meant to be to provide for an employees retirement to save on pension payments. Employers should NOT be required to pay ANY superannuation guarantee to ANY overseas workers not planning on spending their retirement in AUSTRALIA. This is a "no-brainer", the reason for which it was ever introduced for non-residents I cannot understand. Much of these payments are not even claimed back by the employees, so it is a major cost to farmers (and other employers) and for NO VALID REASON, except to go into subsidising the super of other Australians or into Government coffers!

Conclusion:

**Working Holiday Maker Visa Review**  
**Online portal submissions — Free text**

1. Flat tax for backpackers of 15% -19%
2. No superannuation guarantee payments to any overseas workers
3. A new, simplified Employment Declaration Form for Backpackers
4. Employers will be able to find enough casual workers, whereas now, this is getting very difficult
5. These measures will greatly assist in decentralisation, a spike to small rural town economies, and more viable businesses

Sincerely,

Nick Bligh

**Name**

Peter Mares

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:24:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

NB I attempted to upload this submission as a pdf but repeatedly received error messages from your server. This is unfortunate as the original submission includes hyperlinks. Please email me for a pdf version of this submission

Submission: Working Holiday Maker Visa Review

Peter Mares

Adjunct Fellow, Institute for Social Research

Swinburne University

Author Not Quite Australian: how temporary migration is changing the nation

2 September 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am an independent journalist and researcher with a particular interest in migration matters. I write in my capacity as the author of a new book that provides an in-depth investigation of temporary migration. (Not Quite Australian: how temporary migration is changing the nation, Text Publishing, 2016). For more background on the points made below, I refer you to Chapter 9 of my book "De Facto Labour Migration" and to the recommendations in the book's conclusion. I also refer you to the following article, reviewing the report of the recent inquiry of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration into the Seasonal Workers Programme ('Comparing apples and oranges', Inside Story, 5 July 2016, <http://insidestory.org.au/comparing-apples-and-oranges> )

I apologise for the brevity of this submission, but would be happy to provide oral evidence or further written documentation of the issues raised if that were helpful.

I address four issues relevant to the current review of the Working Holiday Maker Visa.

1. Tax Rates. The decision to apply the non-resident tax rate of 32.5% on the first dollar earned working holiday makers is counter productive and likely to produce perverse outcomes and unintended. Working holiday makers are already employed in industries such as hospitality, tourism and agriculture, where cash-in-hand payments and tax avoidance are widespread. Denying working holiday makers access to the tax free threshold that applies to residents is likely to encourage employers and employees to engage even more frequently in verbal agreements to pay untaxed cash wages at below award rates.



2. How the second year WHM visa leads to abuse exploitation The introduction in 2005 of a second 12-month working holiday visa for visa holders who engage in at least 88 days of specified work in horticulture in a regional area, and its subsequent expansion to other sections of the rural economy, perverts the original intention of a visa designed to encourage long-term tourism and cultural experience and turns it into a visa designed to meet labour market needs. What is more, the option of a second visa has created a 'choke point' at which working holiday makers become vulnerable to the depredations of unscrupulous employers and rouge hostel operators. Extensive evidence shows that working holiday-makers are vulnerable to abuse from employers who can exploit working holiday makers' desire to secure a second year visa by demanding that they perform dangerous work, work for excessive hours, or work for sub-award wages. There are documented cases of employers failing to provide a safe workplace, refusing to take responsibility for workplace injuries and pressuring female workers to provide sexual favours in return for 'sign off' on their 88 days specified work. Rouge hostel operators promise work in return for backpacker accommodation, but travellers can arrive in remote locations having paid for their accommodation in advance, only to find that there is no work available, or that work is uncertain or that the available pay and hours are insufficient to cover living costs.

While many employers and accommodation operators do the right thing, the second visa option structural creates conditions in which such abuses are almost certain to occur.

3. The interaction of the Working Holiday Visa second visa option and the Seasonal Workers Programme (SWP). The Seasonal Workers Programme for seasonal migrant workers from Pacific Island nations and in East Timor has been seriously undermined by the second working holiday visa option. Farmers who want to engage working holiday-makers don't have to prove their credentials in any way, whereas "approved employers" under the SWP must demonstrate not only "good immigration practices and a history of compliance with immigration legislation" but also "a history of compliance with Australian workplace relations, work health and safety legislation, and other relevant laws." While only 58 employers were approved under the SWP in 2014–15, a majority of horticultural producers report employing working holiday-makers. An employer who wants to recruit backpackers doesn't have to test the local labour market at all, whereas approved SWP employers must advertise for a two-week period within the three months before they bring a seasonal worker to Australia.

A regulated scheme with a development focus will always entail higher costs for employers than an unregulated backpacker program, which is why the option of a second working-holiday visa should be gradually phased out and replaced with an expanded SWP. As long as the second WHM visa option exists, the Seasonal Worker Programme will continue to be stymied, because employers will find it cheaper and easier to hire backpackers. Yet while this may be in the short term interests of individual employers, it is not in the long term national interest or the interests of Australia's regional industries.

Under the working holiday maker scheme, most backpackers will only work in a recognized industry regional Australia for as long as necessary to acquire a second WHM visa. Reliance on an itinerant "backpacker" workforce has significant disadvantages.

The Victorian apple-growing firm Vernview, for example, told parliament's migration committee that the high turnover makes working holiday-makers unreliable because "backpackers tend to only want to be around for short periods before heading off to the next region as many have a pre-planned itinerary of exploring Australia." This has often left the business "short of labour and caused issues on critical days of harvest and getting the crop picked in optimum condition."

While Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme for the Pacific Islands and East Timor imposes time limits—seasonal workers can only stay in Australia for part of the year (usually a maximum of six months)—it is anticipated that they will return again year after year. By encouraging migrants to return year after year, the SWP aims to provide employers with a secure source of increasingly skilled and experienced labour.

There is another consideration at work here: a primary purpose of the Seasonal Worker Programme is promoting development, so the idea is that workers take their savings home to invest in their own families and communities before returning for another stint of work the following season. The intent, too, is that seasonal workers still spend a significant chunk of each year with their families—that they keep their emotional roots in home soil,

The Seasonal Worker Programme has the added benefit of generating employment and increasing family incomes in small nations that are highly dependent on Australian aid. Ideally, a seasonal labour programme should also include training opportunities so that workers could take home useful skills (such as courses in first aid or safe pesticide handling). The cyclical nature of the Seasonal Worker Programme is better for productivity than the working-holidaymaker scheme: as the same workers return year on year they become increasingly proficient in the skills appropriate to the workplace, whereas each new batch of backpackers always starts from scratch. Experience in New Zealand and Canada shows that cyclical seasonal-labour schemes can be viable and beneficial. Despite its much smaller economy, New Zealand hosts around 8000 seasonal workers each year; Australia's numbers are fewer than 3000.

If we need more fruit-pickers and other seasonal workers in rural and remote Australia, then the Seasonal Worker Programme for the Pacific and East Timor is a more appropriate way to meet this demand for labour, as long as it remains closely regulated. Recent allegations of labour-hire companies ripping off Pacific Island workers in Queensland, NSW and Victoria are disturbing, but it is nevertheless easier to monitor the employment conditions of teams of workers deployed under a centrally organised Seasonal Worker Programme than it is to keep track of what happens to tens of thousands of working holidaymakers independently entering the rural labour market—particularly when, as outlined above, employers and accommodation providers can use the option of a second visa to exploit potentially vulnerable young travellers. In addition, as far as I am aware, all of the problems of abuse that have arisen in the Seasonal Workers Programme have been perpetrated by labour hire contractors rather than farmers; it appears therefore that the problem lies not with the design of the SWP per se, but rather with the extremely lax regulation of labour hire contractors in Australia. As the parliament's joint migration committee reported, the Fair Work Ombudsman receives a "relatively low" number of complaints about employers in the SWP compared to other sectors and abuse in the SWP could be further reduced if state and federal governments regulated the labour hire industry effectively. On this point the migration committee endorsed the earlier Senate education and employment committee recommendation that labour hire contractors be subject to a licensing regime. That committee's report on temporary work visas, *A National Disgrace*, concluded that "certain parts of the labour hire industry... have been a breeding ground for the widespread and egregious exploitation of temporary visa workers."

One of the original intentions behind the Seasonal Worker Programme was that it would help build people-to-people links between Australia and the Pacific, with church groups and service clubs (like Lions and Rotary) engaging seasonal workers in local activities, or even fundraising for development projects in the workers' home villages. Embedding the programme in the community in this way would reduce the likelihood of workplace abuses occurring and increase the likelihood of them being reported.

Potential expansion of the Seasonal Workers Programme Parliament's migration committee report on the SWP also recommended that the program be expanded into new sectors suffering from labour shortages, notably aged care, childcare and disability care. This would certainly help achieve the committee's laudable aim of opening up the program to more women, but it is problematic in other ways. Unlike significant parts of the agriculture and tourism industries, there is nothing remotely seasonal about care work.

Bringing in low-skilled migrant workers on temporary visas to fill ongoing gaps in the labour market is a very different proposition from a seasonal scheme in which migrants come to Australia for a defined period each year, and it would open the door to a different range of

problems. Assuming that these migrants would be working and paying tax in Australia for years at a time, what rights would they accrue to access welfare benefits? Would there be a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship, or would they, like many New Zealanders, be trapped in permanent temporariness? If Australia needs low-skilled workers from the Pacific and East Timor to fill permanent jobs, then in my view, we must offer them permanent visas and allow them to settle with their families and become full members of the political community.

**Name**

David Partridge

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 6:59:43 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Dear Sir/Ma'am.

I want the 'other side' of the backpacker issue to be heard and considered also. So I thank the Australian Government for providing this opportunity to do so. I was a casual employee on a wool and grain producing farm at Teesdale in Victoria between 2012 and 2014. I was living on the property, paying the farmer rent (at times subsidized by Centerlink) and had worked for the farmer preparing for harvest on maintenance and 'Windrower' operations. Despite all this, one harvest, when the harvesting contractor turned up with backpacker crew the 'Chaser Bin' job of which I had previous experience, was given to a Norwegian backpacker. And this using the farmer's tractor which I had previously been driving.

I believe farmer's need to be 'encouraged' to take a higher view and priority to employ their fellow Australian countrymen. Maybe a backpacker tax of 25% might bring a better balance to this issue

Sincerely, David Partridge

**Name**

Chelsea McNeil

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:32:39 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Ceres Farm

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The fact of the matter is these jobs are on offer to all Australians but Australians get paid to well on welfare and don't want to do the work so we need these backpackers. If we don't have them ours and many other businesses wouldn't survive! I strongly believe if we tax them any higher then we already do they will choose not to come to Australia and works for us.

**Name**

Traci Wilson-Brown

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 4:36:20 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

WWOOF Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I will attach a submission in section D but the Appendix to this Submission is too large to upload so I have loaded it on our website and you can access it from this link:

[http://www.woof.com.au/images/forms/WWOOF\\_Submission\\_Appendix.pdf](http://www.woof.com.au/images/forms/WWOOF_Submission_Appendix.pdf)

Traci Wilson-Brown

Office Manager

WWOOF Pty Ltd

**Name**

Celeste Arenas

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 4:45:45 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

The Australian Taxpayers' Alliance

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Q3 implies that Working holiday-makers should be forced to contribute to superannuation. It is our position that this question is misleading as it misses the option that they should not be forced to contribute in the first place!

**Name**

lindsay bolam

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:44:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

we are wwoofers hosts & live in central new south wales & we rely on them to help us run our farm.we used to be able to sign second year visa for more than 88 day work .we teach them things about farming ,sheep & cattle ,living off the land also help with langage.& english.cooking food ..as we have to pay we dont get any helpers now .



**Name**

pennie patane

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:47:32 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Patane Produce (WA) Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I would like to make the following points:

\* Our business has a requirement for 35 fulltime positions which we have to fill with backpacker labour as there is insufficient local & will population.

\* These positions are not seasonal and our requirement is for 12mths of the year. Unfortunately backpacker labour is all that is available and it is very expensive. it is also very expensive to administrate and the restriction of 6mths maximum employment per employee exacerbates matters. we are working under 5 different accreditations and this is very difficult to keep inducting and training new employees.

\*The majority of backpackers are sending a large portion of their income offshore and the sgc that they can collect when they leave the country all goes offshore - of no benefit to local economy.

**Name**

David Bungey

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:56:08 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I don't believe employers should have to pay super to backpackers ,its just another government grab as travellers are not planning on retiring in Australia as that's what superannuation is for. Our farm employs foreign workers on a seasonal bases, they work long hours get paid above award wagers and spend most if not all their money in Australia before returning home.15 to 18 % flat tax with no thresh hold and no super it's not that hard .

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 5:49:18 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Backpackers provide a flexible workforce and increase diversity in rural communities, the fleciablility means the businesses are not tied to specifics and flexible to met industry demands

**Name**

Harry James [ Jim ] Challis

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 7:00:15 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Augusta Resorts Pty Ltd

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our businesses in rural Western Australia would be severely affected if the numbers of working holiday visa people were to decline.

During the summer season holiday visa people would comprise 20% of our workforce. Many are already trained in hospitality, mature and well educated and therefore have an advantage over many school leavers or uni - students who may be available.

We do employ local people wherever possible, however many has been the time when they are just not around.

**Name**

Ben Smith

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 8:27:06 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

In my 40 year life I have found working backpackers from France and other nations theiving littering law breaking parasites which should not be givin access to this beautiful country, More screening must be done to prevent these people coming in.

**Name**

Ashley Reichstein

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 9:11:21 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Back packers put most of the money they earn back into the australian economy as they travel around Australia.

Backpackers shouldn't be entitled to superannuation. Maybe that's what the government should be withholding in lieu of the tax.

**Name**

Megan McDowall

**Date Lodged**

02 Sep 2016 9:44:16 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers are a perfect match for our seasonal workforce in an isolated regional area. They are keen to work for a finite period between bouts of travel. Unlike fellow urban Australians, they view coming to a regional area and working outside their normal field as an adventure or experience. In our experience, they come well equipped with 'soft skills', and are reliable and capable. The added bonus is that they bring a cultural experience to our isolated family farming operation, for us and our children. They, in return, take home a greater understanding of farming (and therefore food production) in Australia. They also tend to spend most of their earnings either in our local community or on further travels, very little appears to leave our shores. It seems quite unfair to tax them at a premium rate, when they have limited access to taxpayer benefits, in particular subsidised medical care, particularly when this taxation rate puts us out of step with other countries these backpackers may choose to experience instead.

Superannuation entitlements seem like a more logical area to recoup, as backpackers have access to these funds immediately upon returning home. This money is therefore neither spent in Australia, or being used as intended.

**Name**

Keith & Sharon Clayton

**Date Lodged**

03 Sep 2016 1:55:18 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Moondyne Organics

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Our family farm has produced sort after organic produce for over 20 years with help from travellers

We have been hosts to w.w.o.f.'ers and the experience on both sides has been exceptional

That is until our governments immigration policy suddenly changed!

This has put our business, livelihood and family in a very difficult position

I believe the intent of the decision was good,

as many overseas travellers were abused and treated badly,

However for ALL those Aussie Farmers who have always respected our international visitors,

It is a kick in the guts.

We cannot pay award wages to people who want to experience what the Aussie bush has to offer &

work a handful of hours in exchange for FOOD & comfortable ACCOMODATION on our property

Please please reconsider this decision & bring WOOF'ing Regional work for second year visa under stricter guidelines!!!

For example - we must register with the government as a verified business, be open & accountable for checks

& any complaints of treatment by workers be investigated correctly.

How can a few dodgy people, like strawberry farms which are run by rich Vietnamese groups ruin what we all embraced...?

This decision has hurt small independent Aussie farms to the point of shutting up shop.

I urge you to look into all this further.

Thank you



**Name**

**Date Lodged**

03 Sep 2016 11:18:43 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I would suggest it be a flat rule that Working Holiday Visa Holders are not eligible for the General Exemption - so they would pay tax from the first dollar but not at the prohibitive level of a foreign resident.

Perhaps it would be easier if Working Holiday Visa Holders were exempt from the Superannuation guarantee. This would eliminate the need to help them understand it, membership of funds for only a short period and the need for them to reclaim it on departure. Acknowledging that this is an entitlement for all employees that may make the idea more complicated.

**Name**

John Reilly

**Date Lodged**

03 Sep 2016 4:04:56 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Chinaman Creek, Winninowie Conservation Park, SA, seems to be the centre of aggregation for back-packers in the north of South Australia. It appears to be an ideal location for travellers moving to and from the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

I have spent many hours talking to these campers and as you can presume the main topic of conversation over 2015/2016 is the subject of the backpackers tax.

The main gripe ,both this year and last year is that if the tax is re-introduced, all these visitors will abandon Australia for New Zealand or Canada. The delay of a decision on this to January next year, will fail to entice backpackers back. The uncertainty of working in Tourism, Horticulture, Fishing or Agriculture Industries at the peak of these operations, only to find the tax will be introduced has been made clear to me that they will not be returning.

When Tony Abbot mooted changes to the backpackers tax in 2013, it spread around the world on social media very quickly. This resulted in 25% less backpackers in Australia in 2015. These people are on their phones, tablets and computers constantly and communicate quickly on social media and they are very savvy when planning their future travels and job opportunities

All the backpackers camped at Chinaman Creek have conveyed these sentiments to me during late night discussions (and Drinks)!! over 2015 and 2016.

I have kept detailed records of backpacker visitations to Chinaman Creek (see attachment)- Country of origin, visa details, employment, direction of movement, transportation etc., etc

**Name**

Kelly Wilson

**Date Lodged**

03 Sep 2016 11:42:01 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Bremer Bay Resort

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

We have a small permanent population in Bremer Bay (approx 350). Our busy season means the town population swells to approx 10,000 meaning we need lots of extra staff and backpackers make up a big percentage. We advertise on Gumtree so any Australian workers looking for work can access it but we rarely get any applications from Australians. Backpackers enjoy their time outside of the cities and also use their time on the country to save money for the next leg of their journey. If they were to pay a third of their wage in tax, there wouldn't be much incentive to go to remote areas to save and our business would struggle to function without the backpackers.

**Name**

Gillian

**Date Lodged**

04 Sep 2016 1:01:39 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Having travelled widely throughout Australia in the last 2 years, I know that much of rural and regional and remote Australia could not function without the labour provided by backpackers. Many of the regions do not have the population to take on jobs in service stations, accommodation places or eating outlets that service remote areas, particularly in peak travel times.

Meeting some of the backpackers in caravan parks where they stay, often in small tents, has given us good insights into the hardships of the conditions in which they work. There are very few Australians that would accept this work and certainly not travel and live under these conditions. Please do not do anything to stop them coming. We really need their help. These businesses could not continue without them.

I also believe that having the overseas contact will help with future international relations. Taxing them will damage international relations!!

**Name**

Guy Newell

**Date Lodged**

04 Sep 2016 7:22:57 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I live in a remote part of Queensland where it is difficult to find young Australians living here who are prepared to work on a cattle. It is also hard to get young Australians who are prepared to travel out here to work. Backpackers are filling the gaps at the moment. They pay GST on the things that they purchase in the regional towns. I don't believe it is fair to double dip by income taxing them as well. It is a disincentive for them to come here and all it will do is force them to go to other countries where the taxation on working travellers is more lenient. I do not support this Backpacker Tax proposal at all.

**Name**

Dyan Hughes

**Date Lodged**

04 Sep 2016 9:19:41 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

BANGLADESH

**Written Submission**

In our workplace, our permanent Australian employees enjoy meeting the backpackers we employ occasionally. They add an interesting dimension to our workforce, and we all learn from them. They are usually very keen to learn new skills, and are generally of a good standard with a good work ethic, pleasant manners, and keen to please. Most are intelligent and very keen to learn about Australia, and our customs. In agriculture we are often at the cutting edge of things, and they appreciate our size, scale and innovations. Backpacker labour is a win/win for Australia and other countries.

I personally was a Canadian backpacker here 39 years ago. Certainly wasn't looking to emigrate, but fell in love with my husband when he was backpacking in Canada and here I am now 38 years later, having raised 5th generation Aussie graziers who now have their own children. Hybrid vigour at work in Agriculture!

**Name**

Markus Giesen

**Date Lodged**

05 Sep 2016 1:28:02 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

I can't see how taking away money from holiday workers by means of taxation will help regional economies.

Enabling holiday workers to fund their travels and spend their money in regional areas to help local businesses as well as the tourism in Australia will bring this money back into the country.

No holiday worker comes here to make money and then go home with it.

**Name**

Nick Mantovani

**Date Lodged**

06 Sep 2016 11:21:54 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

Backpackers not only spend money in the area they are working in (food, entertainment and accommodation) but save their income to travel to other parts of Australia - thus contributing to the tourism industry.



**Name**

Dianne Snow

**Date Lodged**

06 Sep 2016 1:53:50 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

The regional area I live in has several large blueberry farms which rely heavily on casual seasonal workers drawn from both local and backpacker sources. The closest farm geographically is in the process of expanding and will therefore attract more casual workers. I cannot emphasise enough how important the influx of such workers will be to the village I live in as well as to other nearby villages. Over the past 4 years several businesses have closed down due to insufficient trade. Given that back-packers spend a substantial proportion of their salaries on food and accommodation, this small boost to our failing local economy can only help. Any move to increase taxes on backpacker wages will discourage rather than encourage the presence of backpackers in our area and would therefore have a direct negative impact on our local economy.

**Name**

**Date Lodged**

06 Sep 2016 2:31:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

Having seen and talked to literally hundreds and hundreds of these work holiday young people in the last few years and witnessed the sudden decrease this year due to proposed tax and talked to them about it, and to those who came years ago and who have now settled as permanent residents in Australia, my association agrees that this proposed tax is tantamount to redirecting these wonderful young people away from Australia and the damage that will follow is serious and could induce a property crash.

The "backpackers" here all know about it and don't intend to stay for it if it is introduced. The numbers of backpackers" here now is much reduced on last year. It is felt by them that is because of the proposed new tax.

In the cities when they return after working in the country, they help supply labor for other valuable niche market positions on a casual basis, that are adding enormously to the vibrancy of the inner city, in restaurants and adding cosmopolitan outlooks to our cities.

Re: Govt vs Industry: First you tax it almost to death, then you have to subsidise it, then you bury it in redtape. It comes from letting lawyers run Govts. The work-holiday people are not on high incomes, have to pay extra for health costs and they are 10 times better as potential migrants to this country than the dopey refugees that come here looking for handouts. There are virtually NO muslim refugees looking for these manual work jobs. The GST these work-holiday people pay is more than other people too, they are not getting it back when they leave either.

If your Govt does not immediately revoke the plan to increase the tax on these people, it will possibly stop for good, and no amount of reducing it back again will do any good, once the lines of connections are broken, as one person tells another and that chain if interrupted, it won't start again. We saw this in the accommodation/casual labor business, as one country of origin of people from a particular city in France say, for example, Leon, stopped, it didn't start again. Likewise from Dublin, when the working-holiday people stopped from there, they haven't resumed.

Therefore continuity is very important, and the sudden reduction now is indicating that the work-holiday people have stopped coming.

The comments about Superannuation - that there are enormous amounts left behind when they leave, and they should not have to contribute there either.

We are all descendants of migrants here, and the young people who come here now are so reminiscent of the people who came in the Gold-rush, displaced from the potato famine of Ireland and England, or from the other corners of the world who came here and forged a great culture, and created a nation that opposed draconian taxes, and fought for the freedom of the country they settled.

If this Government does not stand up for the rights of those people and for the spirit that brings them here, then we are doomed to become the poor white trash of Asia.

Having signed papers from these "backpackers" here, especially from UK and Europe, seeking permanent residency, and seeing the high costs they have to undertake already, we saw how preferable they are to become permanent residents compared to our home grown Australians, compared to migrants from newly-wealthy asian countries with their cultural abhorrence of manual labor. Most of the asian young come on a student visas and work only a few hours in local industries/businesses near the unis, totally not interested in manual labor.

The low tax regime is important to bring these work-holiday people here with a valuable work ethic and a fine dislike of taxes and redtape... It is Time for Tom Sawyer philosophy and a reward for effort again, stopping the rot of welfare dependency. Welfare affects everyone, kills off the incentive to do manual work despite us having the highest rates for labor in the world. The labor rates in the fruit picking industry are relatively low, and under the site control of the Unions especially the cfmeu, the work-holiday people cannot hold down jobs in the construction sites, as soon as the union sees them, they are pushed out. This is shocking, as they are overqualified and the time to get their "cards" is excessive, and adding to the control of sites by the unions.

The low tax regime required for "backpackers", is similar to the land tax regime on owners here, it is free to own the first property, and a low rate for the first few, and only climbs to draconian expropriation levels after a long established and increased ownership. This makes the culture of negative gearing and self-reliance possible for the great majority of self-funded, self-employed small business retirees.

The necessity for low/no tax on the backpackers is not just affecting the casual labor in the country, it is essential for the renewal of the Australian spirit and economy.

We urge you in the Government to reject the proposed increase in backpackers tax, unanimously!!!.

**Name**

Damian Clark

**Date Lodged**

06 Sep 2016 9:32:35 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**Organisation name**

Tru Blu Berries

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

If these changes are implemented then we as farmer are going to find it extremely difficult to get our crops picked as we will have no worker to pick it. No one is going to work if 1/3rd of there wage is going to tax.

**Name**

Philip Rowe

**Date Lodged**

06 Sep 2016 9:21:23 PM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

AUSTRALIA

**Written Submission**

My experience in employing overseas visitors holding working holiday visas aligns with the summary sheet statement that total income while in Australia is relatively low. As a result, the proposed tax rate of 32.5% from the first dollar will in many cases be returned as a refund at the time of departure from Australia. The implementation of this rate from the first dollar earned also does not provide an equitable comparison with an Australian citizen's remuneration for the same work, and is therefore discriminatory against visa holders.

It is strongly argued that exercising a lower tax level for visa holders would result in more of that income being expended within Australia, with consequent benefits to other parts of the economy, and this is of particular relevance to the health of regional economies in which such employment is conducted.

In the past there has been use (by my business) of an ATO-approved flat tax schedule for horticultural employment. This enabled harvest workers to be concurrently employed by several employers during the harvest period without having to designate one as the "first" employer with a tax-free threshold and all others applying taxation from the first dollar at a marginal rate. It also had the benefit of limiting the unnecessary withholding of a significant component of the income of the seasonal workforce, often including students, whose whole year income did not justify payment of much or any tax, but had such deductions applied at the rate of either 13 or 11% the change made following the introduction of GST.

Such a system was demonstrably equitable for the workers, and enable access to a justifiably higher proportion of the gross income for each individual -where that income was of a seasonal or short-term nature.

This is exactly the case with overseas visitors with working holiday visas.

That the horticulture industries are significantly reliant on such labour for harvest should not need to be defended or challenged. It seems naive to imagine that there is any gain for Australian business or Government revenue to place penalty taxation provisions before such willing workers, whilst ipso facto committing to refund at the point of departure from Australia a substantial proportion of any taxes deducted during the period of work, when it could have contributed to other parts of our domestic economy.

**Name**

Frank Giles

**Date Lodged**

07 Sep 2016 9:48:22 AM

**Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Individual

**Organisation name**

**Country**

**Written Submission**

I would like to employ Australian's if possible, but I haven't had a fruit picking application for approximately 4 years from locals, yet backpackers can find us from the other side of the world. Have used mixture of locals and backpackers but locals dried up and moved on (marriage, university, armed forces or permanent employment).

Without these people I would lose 50% of my fruit and intend to plant more so backpackers are essential to viability of our operation.

To tax them at the higher rate is incredibly stupid to recoup a few million dollars and jeopardise a multi billion dollar Australia wide industry.

I have already discussed the situation with them last season and all said the same thing as it is already expensive for them to get a tourist visa, they will go to other country's with less burdensome and expensive requirements.

Most of the money they earn is spent in Australia on food and travel expenses and I believe they are entitled to take or draw down on super when they depart Australia .

What happened to the "Australian" way of treating people that do our so called "shit work" which is so vital to our economy and also our health (but that is a different story again), FAIRLY.