

1 September 2016

To whom it may concern

The possible introduction of a working holiday-makers tax rate of 32.5% will severely damage our community and will impact our agricultural & tourism industry.

Working holiday-makers are instrumental to our economy and regional tourism and agriculture. They tend to do short term seasonal work that doesn't suit most Australians, who choose other employment options. Farmers lose approx \$700 million dollars due to labour shortages. So they are crucial in filling in the gaps.

If a high tax rate is introduced, a further decline will occur, affecting numerous industries. Regional employment is crucial in our community as Griffith and surrounding areas are the food bowl of Australia.

Working holiday-makers spend approx 80% of their average \$15,000 earnings, which bring new life into regional communities. They buy their bread and milk from the local supermarket, rent accommodation, buy a coffee from our local cafe, buy their clothes from our local shop, order dinner from our local restaurant, repair their car at a local mechanic, engage in community activities, attend tourist attraction and more. You can see the impact their tourist dollar has amongst our local community.

We believe working holiday-makers should pay at least some tax whilst working in Australia and be treated as any other Australian tax-paying worker would. They use public facilities and services just like everyone else, so the tax rate should be fair. Whilst we have the strongest workplace laws in the world, we don't need any more red tape. It just makes Australia less competitive compared to other working holiday destinations. Most working holiday-makers have no intention of retiring in Australia so there is no need to set up superannuation funds. That money can be re-invested and better spent to boost regional tourism and employment.

We request a fair and reasonable review, so we can secure the future of regional agriculture and tourism. Working holiday makers are essential to our economy.

Look forward to a positive outcome.

Kind regards

Patrick Pittavino
President Griffith Business Chamber

