

Media Release:

Addressing Workforce Shortages in the Hospitality/Tourism Sector

29 July 2022

Regional Development Australia, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) is facilitating a seminar aimed at “demystifying” migration programs for local employers in the hospitality and tourism sector.

The free one-hour webinar, Demystifying Migration, is a collaboration between RDA AHFKI, Department of Home Affairs, and Department for Industry, Innovation and Science, to help address hospitality and tourism workforce skills shortages across the region.

As the third largest employment sector¹ for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, hospitality and tourism businesses experienced significant workforce shortages throughout 2021. Across the state, 37% of tourism operators rely on international workers to make up their workforce², which was heavily impacted with COVID-19 border closures and travel restrictions.

While both national and international tourism has rebounded strongly across SA, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics³ shows the number of short-term international visitors to South Australia is only around one-third of pre-pandemic levels. As a result, hospitality and tourism operators that rely on these visitors to work in their businesses continue to struggle with workforce shortages.

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The Demystifying Migration webinar will provide industry attendees a mix of examples, detailed program information and a Q&A session to explore the various migration programs currently available and their suitability to different businesses within the sector.

Local employers are encouraged to take part to better understand how to meet their workforce challenges heading into the new financial year and beyond. Interested parties can register for this event at www.rdahc.com.au/events

Regional Workforce Program Manager, Regional Development at RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Mr Richard Scollin;

“This webinar is a great example of RDA AHFKI working in partnership with state and federal governments to help address workforce skill shortages across the region. Migration program officers will be on hand to explain how the program works and how it could benefit businesses, making it a fantastic opportunity for industry employers to look at new options, or to have a refresher, on how they can fill their workforce gaps.”

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Sources:

1. <https://economy.id.com.au/rda-ahfki/employment-census>
2. <https://tourism.sa.gov.au/media/uxqnuv0l/satc-sa-tourism-workforce-directions-final-jan-22.pdf>
3. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/tourism-and-transport/overseas-arrivals-and-departures-australia/latest-release#msdynttrid=LjYePi-mfUB9OHekbFYNahg5Xgm2EnRA9qrgmWIQ-1M>

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