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July 13, 2020

Attn. Mr. Julian Lesser MP

Re. Review of the Working Holiday Maker Program

Dear Minister,

As the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, I am aware that you are soon to be reviewing the Working Holiday Maker Program to ensure that it is supporting Australian jobs and making visa holders available to support businesses.

I'm sure that you're already aware that the number of WH Makers has been declining over the past few years. This is having a significant negative impact on my business and the entire Tourism Industry, as WH Makers contribute around \$3 billion a year to our economy.

In order to increase WH Maker numbers and encourage more WH Makers to travel into regional Australia and support communities and farmers, you could do the following:

- Allow people that could not use all of their visa due to Covid-19 to apply for another visa for free.
- Increase the age limit of the program to 35 for all countries. Or at very least for our biggest market- the UK.
- Reduce the cost from \$485. (A WHV for New Zealand costs NZ\$245)
- Reduce the requirement to obtain a 2nd WHV from 3 months of Regional Work to 1 month. I believe this would result in a significant increase in the number of people doing farm work.
- Provide funding support to Small Businesses that are actively promoting the WH Maker Program.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Fotheringham
Managing Director – INTRO Travel
Phone: [REDACTED]