



3 March 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Red Tape
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
redtape.sen@aph.gov.au

Question on Notice relating to Red Tape and Liquor

I recently gave evidence to the inquiry when it sat in Sydney on 24 February 2017. I have prepared answers on what I understand to have been the questions on notice below.

New liquor licenses

I am advised by the AHA WA that with respect to getting a new liquor license, some in the industry would say it's far too easy in W.A. than other states. Without having access to specific numbers held by the government, our understanding is that very few licenses have been rejected in the last number of years and usually only in very limited circumstances. I am advised that hundreds of new licenses for bars, pubs, restaurants and tourism facilities have in fact been issued.

Sunday trading

With respect to Sunday trading, WA liquor stores can trade on Sundays in metropolitan areas, however in remote and regional areas there are several different circumstances of limitations. Some country areas do have liquor stores trading on Sunday's and these are determined by the WA statutory liquor authority on a case by case basis.

Limitations also exist on liquor stores as well as country pubs and relate to health and community interest driven restrictions. In addition some towns also have no liquor store trading but allow country pubs to be open so that they remain viable and can offer food and accommodation services in remote and regional Western Australia.

457 Visas

The review of the Temporary Skilled Migration Threshold (TSMIT) was released on 24 February 2017. The AHA made a submission to that review. The review made the following recommendations, which are supported by AHA:

- ramping up the analysis capability of Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration so that problems can be better aired in that forum
- The TSMIT continues to be \$53,900, with indexing to recommence as at 1 July 2017
- Instead of the previous practice of being indexed in line with the Average Weekly Earnings, the recommendation is for indexing in line with the Wage Price Index for the March quarter of the current year

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN FERGUSON
NATIONAL CEO