

Media Release



The next Tourism and Hospitality Crisis Lifeline welcome 13/08/2021

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) has welcomed a timely, joint announcement today by Federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg MP, and Queensland Treasurer, Cameron Dick MP, of an increased Queensland COVID-19 Business Support Grant program of \$600 million for the tourism and hospitality sector.

The Commonwealth and State Government will fund the program under a 50:50 cost-sharing agreement.

QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind said, "We have made a desperate plea to both governments this week for further support for our operators, given the dire situation that our industry has been placed in with continuous COVID-19 disruptions.

QTIC engaged with the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Tourism Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan, as well as State Treasurer Cameron Dick, in a push for urgent action for tourism and hospitality businesses.

"This expanded program will go a lot further in giving hope and an urgent cash injection to businesses who are barely hanging on.

The grant will be available to operators in Queensland, including those not in a lockdown area, who have experienced a decline in turnover of more than 30%.

"The fact that the two levels of government have come together to support an industry in distress is a positive sign. It hopefully will convince operators that they are not alone and encourage them to battle on and keep on as many staff as they can," Mr Gschwind said.

"We will continue to seek further support as the challenges continue, specially to support staff and skill retention.

"Australia needs a functioning tourism industry to eventually drive a recovery across all regions. Tourism and hospitality are major employers and the glue that keeps many communities together.

QTIC also proposed a re-introduction to the flexibility provisions in the Fair Work Act that were put into place for employers during the JobKeeper period.

"We are awaiting news on this front, as well as on our call to governments to provide more details on how the roadmap to recovery will be implemented.

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