

Advocacy: Working Holiday Maker Visa



NSW Tourism Association, together with the Australian Tourism Industry Council, is calling on the Australian Government to protect the backpacker visa program.

How you can help

We need tourism businesses across NSW to add their voice to this national campaign. Below is suggested copy you can use or adapt to share the petition with your staff, customers and networks, along with key points to help you write to your local Federal MP.

The most powerful advocacy is personal, so wherever possible, include your own experience of how Working Holiday Makers support your business, workforce and local community.

Help protect backpackers and tourism operators across NSW

Backpackers help tourism businesses like ours fill critical workforce gaps. They are also valuable visitors who travel widely and spend money in communities across Australia.

Proposed changes to backpacker visas will mean fewer workers, fewer visitors and less spending—particularly in regional areas.

We are supporting a national petition calling on the Australian Government to protect the availability, length of stay and mobility of backpacker visas.

Please sign the petition and help protect backpackers and the businesses and communities that rely on them.

Petition Link: <https://c.org/BZmdSgzym4>



Key Points for your Federal MP

A short, personal letter will have the greatest impact. Businesses don't need to cover every policy detail or use all points below. Please choose those most relevant to your business and put them in your own words.

Explain who you are

- your business name, location and number of employees;
- whether you employ backpackers or benefit from their spending; and
- how workforce shortages affect your business.

Explain what is at risk

Suggested themes:

- Backpackers are valuable visitors and a key part of the workforce.
- They fill seasonal and regional jobs that are often difficult to fill locally.
- Visa cuts mean fewer workers, fewer visitors and less spending across communities.
- Without backpackers, businesses may need to reduce services, limit operating hours or turn business away.
- Backpackers are temporary visitors who travel around Australia and return home - they should not be treated in the same way as permanent migrants.

Include a practical example

Describe one or two real impacts, such as:

- how many backpackers you employ;
- positions you cannot fill locally;
- services or opening hours that would be affected; or
- how backpacker spending supports your business and community.

Use the national evidence

ATIC estimates that if these visa changes were to proceed for longer-stay (12 months or more) backpackers it would cost:

- \$2.23 billion in visitor spending;
- \$2.08 billion in GDP; and
- 14,820 jobs nationally, including 4,940 regional jobs.

Ask your MP to support action

Ask the Australian Government to:

- maintain the availability, length of stay and mobility of backpacker visas;
- recognise backpackers as genuine temporary visitors who contribute before returning home;
- exclude temporary tourist and backpacker visa holders from Net Overseas Migration policy targets; and
- pursue targeted migration solutions that don't damage tourism businesses and economies.

Finish by asking your MP to raise the issue with the relevant ministers and support the tourism industry's position.