



## **MEDIA RELEASE** **INDUSTRY WELCOME MINISTER FOR HOSPITALITY**

30 October 2009

The AHA-RCA today welcomed the Tasmanian Government's announcement of an Australian-first Minister for Hospitality.

AHA-RCA president Paul Jubb said this was a turning point for the industry.

"Tasmania is the first State to have a Minister for Hospitality," Mr Jubb said.

"Tasmania was the first State to form Australia's first Hotel Industry Association – in 1839 – some 170 years ago.

"That was important then - this is important now.

Mr Jubb said the AHA-RCA has lobbied hard to achieve this for some considerable time.

"As the Federal Minister for Tourism Martin Ferguson said recently: 'Hospitality is the engine room of the tourism industry'.

"In Tasmania, we employ more than 23,000 people.

"The Tasmanian hospitality industry delivers \$1.29 billion in wages to the Tasmanian economy.

"We deliver a further \$80 million in taxes; and we support almost every community sporting organisation in Tasmania, through our pubs and hotels.

"Put simply, Tasmania's hospitality industry deserves a Minister for Hospitality."

Mr Jubb said the AHA/RCA sees more people every day than any other industry in Tasmania.

"The AHA/RCA entertains, feeds and accommodates the more than 800,000 tourists who come to Tasmania every year.

"We serve Tasmanians in our hotels and pubs & club – with a drink or a counter meal.

“And we give your Tasmanian sons and daughters jobs working in hospitality.

“The hospitality industry offers people careers: full-time, part-time, casual and life-long – careers that can take you interstate or around the world.

“We will now have an important seat at the table – the Cabinet Table. Our industry, its employers and employees, will have a voice in Cabinet, representing us.

“Working with our Minister, Michelle O’Byrne, we will grow our industry, in terms of jobs, capital investment and profile.”

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