

Media Statement

18 March 2010

MICHELLE O'BYRNE
Minister for Hospitality

Growing Hospitality Industry in Tasmania

The Minister for Hospitality, Michelle O'Byrne, today said Labor would commit \$150,000 to support the State's hospitality industry and grow jobs for Tasmanians.

Ms O'Byrne said Labor would also develop a partnership agreement with the Tasmanian Hospitality Association.

"This agreement will identify an agreed vision for hospitality for the next decade, and set down actions that both Labor and the THA will take toward achieving this vision.

"Hospitality employs more than 23,000 Tasmanians, and it is important that we have a long-term vision in partnership with this sector to allow it to continue growing and ensuring Tasmanians seeking a career in hospitality have the necessary skills."

Ms O'Byrne said Labor would provide \$100,000 over four years to invest in a Hospitality Sector Skills Development Program.

"This will allow the hospitality industry to ensure that it has access to people with the right mix of skills to take the industry forward and allow it to continue providing the best possible hospitality experience to both visitors and locals alike."

Ms O'Byrne said Labor would also provide \$20,000 to investigate the creation of a central hospitality labour pool.

"Hospitality businesses often face staff shortages during peak-season periods, and a central labour pool could assist hospitality businesses ensure their staffing demands are met to deliver the best level of

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service possible.

“Labor will investigate the feasibility of creating such a pool to allow the sector to better manage resources and respond to these challenges.”

Ms O’Byrne said Labor would also invest \$30,000 to implement a Pub Watch program.

“Pub Watch is designed to curb alcohol-related anti-social behaviour around pubs and night spots throughout Tasmania.

“While we know that the vast majority of people who enjoy socialising in pubs and night spots do so responsibly, there are some whose actions threaten the enjoyment of other patrons.

“This funding will allow the THA to work with Tasmania Police to help encourage improved behaviour and also better manage patrons whose actions have led them to being banned from venues.

“I commend the operators of a number of venues who have already introduced a system for preventing patrons banned from one venue due to inappropriate behaviour from simply moving to another venue, and this funding will allow venues to share information to crack-down on anti-social behaviour.”

Ms O’Byrne said Labor was proud of the support it had provided to the hospitality sector, which was a vital component of Tasmania’s tourism growth, being the first party to have a dedicated Minister for Hospitality.

“Tasmania’s tourism continued to grow last year despite a national downturn, and the hospitality sector is a crucial part of ensuring visitors to our State leave with their expectations not just met, but exceeded.

“Labor has announced an extra \$20 million for tourism marketing, plus a further \$8.8 million to grow events tourism, and is the only party to commit to allowing the Spirit of Tasmania ferries to be replaced ahead of schedule.

“With the creation of a long-term vision for hospitality in conjunction with the sector itself, I look forward to Tasmania having a vibrant hospitality industry well into the future,” Ms O’Byrne said.

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