

THE RELEASE OF CORE SKILLS OCCUPATIONS LIST IS UNDERCOOKED

Australia's peak body for restaurants, cafes and caterers, Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) expresses concerns regarding the Australian Government's release of the Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL) specifically the removal of key hospitality staff like Managers, Bar Attendants, Waiters and Baristas.

"The decision by the Australian Government will directly and adversely impact the viability of hospitality businesses in Australia as well as the future of gastronomy in our nation. Moreover, it is incomprehensible that the Government would choose to remove these critical staff members when our sector is already struggling with the cost of living pressures, skills shortages and ever increasing energy prices," R&CA CEO Suresh Manickam said.

In R&CA's submission to Jobs and Skills Australia, R&CA highlighted the ongoing skills shortages in the sector with the local supply of Chefs and Cooks only accounting for 17% of the growth in demand per annum between 2024 and 2026.

"We are pleased that our extensive submission and ongoing advocacy for our sector has provided certainty to businesses who have been on a knives edge by the possibility of chefs and cooks being removed from the list."

R&CA highlighted Café or Restaurant Managers should also remain on the list as many businesses were still finding it difficult finding staff to fill roles. These critical roles include waiters and baristas.

R&CA CEO Suresh Manickam said "The Australian Government has not gone far enough to include key staff for restaurants and cafes, with managers, waiters and baristas being removed."

"Our industry prides itself on service, and its hard to provide service when you don't have staff. This is akin to taking everyone's Christmas dinner order on Christmas Day then serving the meals on New Years Day," said Manickam.

R&CA will continue to monitor the impacts of the CSOL on the sector.

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