

**THRIVE 2030 Workforce and Skills Technical Working Group**

**Summary of meeting – 17 November 2022**

The second meeting of the *THRIVE 2030 Workforce and Skills Technical Working Group* (Working Group) was held on 17 November 2022. The Chair thanked Working Group members for their participation and engagement in the Tourism Jobs Summit, hosted by the Minister for Tourism and Trade, Senator the Hon Don Farrell, on 30 August 2022 in Canberra. Members agreed that an important outcome from the Tourism Jobs Summit was the identification of priorities for the *Visitor Economy Workforce and Skills Strategy*. Members discussed these priorities being a key component of Austrade’s submissions to the Australian Government’s *Employment White Paper,* the migration review and resulting *A Migration System for Australia’s Future* strategy.

The Chair proposed, and members agreed, that it was important to incorporate the findings of the *Employment White Paper* into the *Visitor Economy Workforce and Skills Long-Term Strategy.* For this purpose, the Chair sought input from members on the *Interim Visitor Economy Workforce and Skills Action Plan*, which all agreed should also reflect the key priorities and actions from the Tourism Jobs Summit.

An upcoming Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) inquiry into Australia’s tourism and international education sectors would also explore the challenges and opportunities presented to both sectors since the reopening of Australia’s borders. Members were invited to provide a submission to the inquiry.

Austrade advised of work underway by Austrade, the Department of Home Affairs and Tourism Australia to proactively encourage offshore Working Holiday Maker visa holders to travel to Australia. NIAA advised their focus on opportunities for increasing employment of First Nations people, and Home Affairs outlined the strong and increasing numbers of temporary visa holders entering Australia.

Work underway on barriers to cross-border qualifications recognition was discussed. The Chair advised that the Tourism Ministers’ Meeting, held on 6 October 2022, has also committed to investigate opportunities for improved qualification mobility across jurisdictions. Ms Jessica Keen (Australian Tourism Export Council) provided members with an update of work being done by Austrade and ATEC, to source employer case studies for enhanced understanding of the key issues.

Swinburne University delivered a presentation on a recent research report, [*The Visitor Economy: Making it a career of choice*](https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/publications/the-visitor-economy-making-it-a-career-of-choice), commissioned by Austrade, on factors that attract people to work in the visitor economy. Members agreed to supplement the report’s international case studies – of employer best practices – with Australian case studies, including case studies that involve First Nations people, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented cohorts. Dr Donna Odegaard (First Nations Broadcasting) noted the importance of including examples from an Indigenous perspective and agreed to provide suggestions for further case studies with an Indigenous focus.

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held in the first quarter of 2023.