

The Hon David Bradbury MP Assistant Treasurer PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

05 February 2013

Dear Assistant Treasurer

I am writing in relation to the release of the exposure drafts of the proposed amendments to component pricing requirements in the Australian Consumer Law for restaurants and cafes.

By way of explanation, the Accommodation Association of Australia is the national industry body for the accommodation industry. Members of the Association include major hotels, resorts, motels, motor inns, serviced and holiday apartments, bed and breakfasts, guesthouses, backpackers and timeshare establishments in metropolitan, regional and rural Australia across all states and territories. Our membership base includes almost 2000 properties and more than 110,000 guest rooms. Accommodation Association members include major hotel and motel chains, such as Accor Hotels, Hilton Hotels, Toga Hospitality, Mantra Group, Rydges Hotels, Amora Hotels, InterContinental Hotels Group, Best Western Australia and Quest Serviced Apartments.

While the provision of tourism accommodation is the principal source of business for our members, a majority of them also have restaurants - both formal and informal (cafes, bars, etc) - which provide important services to inhouse guests as well as other consumers. In fact, some of Australia's most prestigious restaurants are located within major hotels.

It is for this reason that the accommodation industry has always been opposed to the previous legislative changes which required weekend and public holiday surcharges to be added to existing charges for menu items and displayed as one figure. As you would be aware, the consequence of this was that several sets of menus and menu boards were required to be developed by businesses in our sector at significant additional cost to our members.

Therefore, the Accommodation Association strongly supports the proposed changes to the Australian Consumer Law which would remove the single pricing requirement on menus in restaurants.

The Association has analysed the exposure drafts and is satisfied that the definition of a restaurant would capture restaurants, cafes and other food-service businesses which are housed within tourism accommodation establishments.

Should your office or The Treasury require any further information about the accommodation industry's views on this issue, please contact either myself or our government relations advisor, Mr Hamish Arthur of Kreab Gavin Anderson (02 6295 3522, harthur@kreabgavinanderson.com<mailto:harthur@kreabgavinanderson.com>).

Yours sincerely

RICHARD MUNRO

Chief Executive Officer