



QTIC Communique

Canberra Delegation, 7-8
September 2026



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

QTIC Communique: Canberra Delegation

Queensland tourism's case on workforce access, insurance costs and visitor data is now with the Prime Minister, the Assistant Treasurer and officials in four Commonwealth departments.

On 7 and 8 September, QTIC led a delegation of 13 tourism and events leaders to Canberra. The delegation opened with a meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at a government lunch hosted by the Speaker of the House, Hon Milton Dick MP. Over two days, delegates went on to meet Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Senators, government and opposition members, and senior officials across four Commonwealth departments, taking Queensland's case for tourism directly to the people who set the policy settings the industry operates under.

Three issues carried the delegation's advocacy.

Workforce and migration. With the Government focused on reducing net overseas migration, we asked for Working Holiday Makers and PALM workers to be treated as contributors to the economy rather than migration numbers. We made the case that PALM can't replace Working Holiday Makers in tourism, because the two programs fill different roles in different places. Since the delegation returned to Queensland, the Australian Government has announced changes to the Working Holiday Maker visa settings, which does not favour the tourism industry, and QTIC is working with ATIC and other allies to advocate against these changes.

We've asked the Minister for Home Affairs, Hon Tony Burke MP, to add more postcodes to the list where tourism and hospitality work counts as specified regional work: Bundaberg (4670), Hervey Bay (4655), Maryborough (4650), K'gari (4581), Agnes Waters and 1770 (4677), and Stanthorpe (4370). If approved, backpackers working in tourism in these towns could count that work toward a second or third-year visa, which gives local operators a bigger pool of staff. We also asked for workforce planning for Brisbane 2032 to start now.

Insurance affordability. Insurance featured heavily across the two days. We met the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services, Dr Daniel Mulino MP, on premiums, public liability caps and the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool. The Parliamentary Inquiry into Small Business Insurance, which we made a submission to, is due to report to Dr Mulino by the end of October, and the Government will then respond. We'll be pushing for that response to adopt the recommendations in our Insurance Affordability and Availability Advocacy Report, and our Insurance Reform Working Group is tracking progress with both the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Tourism data and investment. We raised two problems with Austrade: the reliability of national visitor data for regional destinations and whether Tourism Australia has enough funding to compete internationally. QTIC is sharing examples of regional data gaps and inconsistencies with Austrade as part of a further discussion on how Tourism Research

Australia data can be more accessible and useful for members, Regional Tourism Organisations and tourism associations.

Canberra was as much about the relationships QTIC built and renewed as the positions it argued. QTIC will keep working those relationships with Ministers, Senators, MPs, departmental officials and Members of the Opposition as it advocates for policy change at the national level, including the government's response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Small Business Insurance, an evidence package on tourism workforce shortages for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, and continued engagement with Austrade on the gaps in regional visitor data.

Members with case studies or data on workforce shortages, insurance costs or visitor numbers in their region are encouraged to share them with QTIC. This is the evidence that carries weight in Canberra, and it directly shapes what QTIC puts in front of Ministers and officials on members' behalf. Please email them to support@qtic.com.au