



VICTORIA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY COMES TOGETHER TO TRAIN WORKFORCE AS IT GEARS UP FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY

Crown Melbourne together with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Australian Hotels Association (Victoria) set to provide free, paid hospitality training to 1,000 Victorians

October 15, 2021 – The hospitality sector is gearing up for reopening, with two leading industry associations and Victoria's largest hospitality employer Crown Melbourne announcing a partnership designed to help ease the skills shortage affecting the hospitality sector, exacerbated by COVID-19.

In partnership with the Victorian Chamber and the AHA (Vic), Crown will offer a free-of-charge Food & Beverage Skills Pathway Program to train 1000 potential hospitality workers by July next year to help address the skills shortage in the industry, to support its COVID-19 recovery. Once the successful applicants complete the course, candidates will then be matched with businesses looking for skilled workers.

To apply, Victorians with an interest in starting a career in hospitality are urged to visit www.jobsinhospo.com.au

Successful applicants will be trained at the award-winning Crown College, and the chosen 1,000 will be paid while they attend the course. Now in its twenty fifth year of operation, Crown College is renowned as one of Australia's largest and respected registered training organisations specialising in hospitality training.

Crown Melbourne Executive General Manager Food and Beverage, Enda Cunningham, says as the largest employer in the Victorian hospitality sector, Crown has an important role to help the Victorian industry boost its overall skill levels, and ensure hospitality continues to attract the talent it needs to in order to remain competitive and future-proof itself.

“COVID-19 has been incredibly hard on hospitality. The skill standard right across our industry ultimately benefits us all, and with the scale that we have at Crown and our training facilities – we are proud to be able to contribute and help the industry get back on track by skilling up a thousand workers.”

Victorian Chamber Chief Executive, Paul Guerra, says that delivering the skills early to ensure that the hospitality industry is ready for reopening will be instrumental in Victoria's recovery.

“COVID-19 has devastated hospitality. Businesses have not just been forced to close for months on end; they also lost some of their best talent who were forced to look for work in other industries. Crown is known for its training standards and is a major hospitality employer in Australia. Providing that training for the rest of the industry to benefit will help lift the industry and kick-start its recovery.”

According to Australian Hotels Association (Victoria) CEO, Paddy O'Sullivan, the recovery of hospitality will be at the heart of Victoria's recovery from COVID-19. “It's important that as an industry we work together to ensure we have the talent in market and that talent is trained to the highest

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standards. Victoria and Melbourne particularly has always been the food and events capital of Australia – that is a mantle that is delivered by a strong hospitality industry. Investing in training that will benefit the entire industry is something we are keen to support.”

The course which is open to both metropolitan and regional based Victorians, will include the fundamentals of hospitality including food and beverage fundamentals, customer service, crockery and cutlery, handling and polishing, order taking, docket writing, service sequencing and cocktail making. The education will have a strong local flavour, with students also to be educated on the different provenance stories and strengths within Victoria’s regional areas, including wine and specialty foods renowned across various regions.

To apply please visit www.jobsinhospo.com.au

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