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Will the Business Events Industry Suffer a Skills Shortage on Economic Recovery?

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About MEA

- National Professional and Industry Body
- Registered Training Organisation (RTO)
- Annual Industry Conference
- Networking



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About MEA (cont)

- Who's Who
- Research
- Lobbying
- State and National Awards Program
- Industry Accreditation and Recognition Programs



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State of Play

- Tourism is one of Australia's largest employers
 - Employing 482,000 Australians directly
 - Employing 810,000 Australians both directly and indirectly
- Business Events make up a good proportion of these statistics



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State of Play

- Labour shortages combined with high turnover, and/or inadequate skill levels has affected the ability for the industry to delivery quality service and highlights why labour and skill issues are so important to all sectors of the industry
- Two years ago it was almost impossible for employers within the Business Events Industry to hire skilled staff



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State of Play

- MEA and in fact many operators within the Business Events industry are fearful that when the economy recovers we will not have enough skilled staff once again
- In fact the state of play may be worse as during the current economic downturn employers are not training
- We currently are not suffering a labour shortage, however we should not be confused with the fact our industry does suffer a skills shortage



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We must have skilled and passionate staff in:

- Meeting Venues
- Hotels
- Airlines
- Transport Systems
- Meetings Management Companies



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We must have skilled and passionate staff in: (cont)

- Audio Visual companies
- Staging companies
- Theming companies
- Tourism Facilities
- Exhibition companies



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The Issue

- When times are tough one of the invisible cuts in an HR budget is "training"
- Many training providers around the country are reporting an up to 70% decline in training over the past 12 months
- We were in a skill shortage before, and this lack of training is actually happening – the writing is on the wall



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What is the Industry Currently Doing to Prevent a Skills Shortage?

- MEA is a member of the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA)
- BECA through the current 2020 Business Events Strategy that has been put before government has called for a number of initiatives to assist with this dilemma



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National Business Events Strategy 2020

- That the Australian Government recognises and supports the business events industry accreditation programs
- Officially recognised by the Australian Government as a sector suffering from a chronic skills shortage by adding it to the national skills shortage list



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National Business Events Strategy 2020 (cont)

- That the Australian Government provide a 125% tax break on approved industry training
- That the Australian Government provides encouragement to the Business Events industry to provide training support for both vocational and tertiary institutions by expanding its GST free component beyond the current articulated training arrangement to approved non articulated training



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National Business Events Strategy 2020 (cont)



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What is the Industry Currently Doing to Prevent a Skills Shortage?

- National Tourism Alliance also has a number of issues in regard to Labour and Skills Shortages
- A forum was held recently facilitated by Service Skills Australia to ensure adequate coverage in the Long Term Tourism Strategy



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What is MEA doing on an operational level nationally ?

- Expanding Professional Development Programs
- Working to keep our PD and Education Programs as affordable as possible
- Researching and running out new and innovative training ideas
- Strengthening our professional relationships with secondary and tertiary institutions
- Building relationships with higher education providers



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What is MEA doing on an operational level nationally?

- Appropriately qualified industry personnel
- Running Mentoring programs
- Accreditation and Recognition programs
- State and National Awards programs
- Networking programs



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MEA's greatest concern

- At MEA our greatest concern is that the industry will find itself in a chronic skills shortage once again, when the economy starts to recover and there are more jobs available
- People working in positions they are not equipped for will cost business and in turn our industry and the economy in the long run
- We need the support of the government to alleviate this, but we also need the support of the industry to support training and training initiatives that are offered



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Thank you