

How to Write to Government About the WHM Visa Pause

A step-by-step guide for BYTAP member businesses

Individual letters from businesses carry real weight with government — more than any single representative body. This guide gives you everything you need to write to your local MP and the relevant ministers in under 20 minutes.

You are not being asked to be a policy expert. You are being asked to describe, plainly, what this visa pause is costing your business and your community. That is the most effective message you can send.

STEP ONE

1 of 3

Find and contact your local federal MP

Your local MP represents your electorate in the House of Representatives. A letter from a local employer in their electorate is something they are obliged to take seriously.

 electorate.aec.gov.au — AEC Electorate Finder

- 1 Enter your business's postcode or suburb in the search field
- 2 Your electorate name and the sitting MP's name will appear
- 3 Click through to the MP's profile — their office email is listed there

If you have multiple locations, write separately from each electorate — each letter counts as a distinct constituent contact for that MP.

STEP TWO

Write directly to the ministers responsible

In addition to your local MP, send the same letter to the three ministers with direct responsibility for the WHM visa program and tourism. You do not need to be in their electorate — as a business affected by their portfolio decisions, they must hear from you.

MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

Hon. Tony Burke MP

- ✉ tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au
- 🔗 [APH profile page](#)
- 📁 Home Affairs & Immigration

ASSISTANT MINISTER, HOME AFFAIRS

Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP

- ✉ matt.thistlethwaite.mp@aph.gov.au
- 🔗 [APH profile page](#)
- 📁 WHM program & regional workforce

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND TOURISM

Hon. Don Farrell

- ✉ senator.farrell@aph.gov.au
- 🔗 [APH profile page](#)
- 📁 Tourism & trade portfolio

BYTAP has already met with Matt Thistlethwaite's office. A letter from your business reinforces and adds to that representation — it is not duplicating it.

STEP THREE

Write your letter — use this template

Personalise the sections in **[brackets]** with your own details. The more specific your numbers, the stronger the letter. Send the same letter to your local MP and to both ministers above.

TEMPLATE LETTER

PERSONALISE THE BRACKETED SECTIONS

Dear **[MP/Minister's Name]**,

I am writing as the **[owner / director / manager]** of **[Business Name]**, based in **[Suburb, State]**. We are a **[brief description: e.g. backpacker hostel / tour operator / regional farm accommodation]** and a constituent of your electorate.

The direct impact on our business

The current pause on Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa processing is having a serious and immediate effect on our operations.

[Describe your situation specifically: e.g. "We have had X forward bookings cancell

[Add any further specific impacts: lost revenue figure, seasonal dependency, reduc

Why this matters beyond our business

Working Holiday Makers are not simply filling gaps in our workforce — they are foundational to the viability of regional tourism, agriculture, and hospitality across Australia. The communities we operate in, and the industries we support, cannot be sustained without a reliable flow of working holiday travellers.

What I am asking

I respectfully ask that the government resume WHM visa processing without further delay, and that any policy review of the program be conducted with proper and transparent industry consultation.

Australia's reputation as a welcoming destination for working holiday travellers has been built over decades. Each month of continued uncertainty damages that reputation in our key source markets — particularly in Europe, where word travels quickly.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with your office directly about the impact this pause is having on our business and our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Title]

[Business Name]

[Business Address]

[Phone / Email]

WHAT MAKES A LETTER EFFECTIVE

- Open by stating you are a constituent or business owner in the electorate — they are required to respond to constituents
- Include one specific number: cancellations, lost revenue, number of workers affected — a concrete figure is harder to dismiss than a general concern
- Make one clear ask: resume processing. Simple and direct outperforms a list of demands
- Keep it to one page — brevity signals that you have written it yourself
- Send by email and follow up with a printed copy to the electoral office if you are able to

