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INFORMATION SHEET (ONLINE SURVEY)

Working Holiday Maker Program Evaluation – WHM Employers

Researchers

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About the study

The Working Holiday Maker (WHM) Program is a temporary migration mechanism that allows young people from a range of countries to travel, work and study in Australia. The program was first evaluated in 2009 and now the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade is seeking to update its understanding about how the Program is working and whether it is delivering positive outcomes for WHM visitors and employers of WHMs.

Purpose of the study

The Australian and Industrial Transformation Institute (AITI) has been commissioned by Austrade to:

1. Examine WHMs perceptions of Australia as a destination to travel, work and study;
2. Better understand the working locations and occupations of WHMs;
3. Provide insights into the importance of WHMs in business operations, whether workforce needs are being met through the program, and the impact of COVID-19.

The evaluation of the Working Holiday Maker Program will provide Austrade with valuable information to assess whether the program is achieving positive outcomes for WHM visitors and employers of WHMs, and to determine what if any improvements are needed.

What will I be asked to do?

You are invited to participate in a confidential online survey requiring approximately five minutes of your time.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

Many thousands of young people visit Australia on WHM visas every year, to travel, work and study. Working Holiday Makers play a vital role working across a range of industries and occupations, providing employers like yourself with a much-needed pool of workers to fill a variety of roles. By providing input into this research, providing your perspective, you will play a key role in ensuring the WHM Program is as strong and responsive as possible in addressing the needs of WHM employers. This will likely be of benefit to you if you intend to continue employing WHMs into the future.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

AITI is an independent research centre. This means your responses will be entirely confidential. You will not be identified by being involved in this study.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

The research team anticipates no risks from your involvement in this study. We endeavour to reduce any inconvenience to you by providing the survey in an online platform which can be completed on a range of devices, not just computers. However, if you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the research team.

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions or withdraw from the study at any time without effect or consequences. Completion and submission of the online survey is considered as consent. If you have any questions about the project or your participation in it, please contact please contact cecilia.moretti@flinders.edu.au for more information.

How will I receive feedback?

Interview findings will be analysed and presented in a Final Report to Austrade, to inform their decision-making processes about the WHM Program. Participants who are interested in the findings may contact Austrade directly for feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to participate in the Working Holiday Maker Program Evaluation online survey.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 8365). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 08 8201 3116, by fax on 08 8201 2035 or by email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au.