

# ESCARPMENT GROUP

*Boutique Collection Of Luxury Escapes*

## **Escarpment Group, response to allegations raised SMH article 7th July 2019**

We have a long history of hosting interns from multiracial multicultural background. They are qualified, skilled and highly motivated to train and progress in hospitality.

All of our trainees apply for a training internship with Hydro through Government approved Internship agencies who conduct a skills audit and develop their training plan for them. Escarpment Group does not charge any fees for their training. Rather we pay the trainee a Full-time salary of at least \$49,950 pa plus super to undertake work-based training with us for average of 12 months.

We deny any allegations of underpayment or exploitation as all trainees as they are paid in accordance with the award have a minimum salary of \$49,950 pa plus Super. We do not deduct their rental and they receive their Salary in full. The Boarding fees are paid separately and the cost is at market rate \$67 per day (or \$480 per week) for 3 meals and furnished accommodation with internet, laundry, linen ie. This is similar to the Blue Mountains International hotel school which charges around \$495pw.

Most interns arrive in Australia without property rental history and understanding of rental requirements. As their Host and as per our Training Agreement lodged with DOHA we have the responsibility for their personal safety and welfare and being in a location like the Blue Mountains it is essential for trainees to be supported with a training package that provides full boarding so that they can focus on the purpose of their internship which is to undertake work-based training under a training visa for 12-13 months only.

References to Escarpment group churning through cheap labour from India, Philippines and Vietnam is certainly not true. These are skilled trainees who are well paid and we are proud of their achievements and they are not "cheap labour". We find this is derogatory and offensive for the multi-racial staff at hydro who are well paid professionals. All international trainees are offered a minimum salary of \$49,950 pa plus super and they pay market rates for full boarding which they approve separately and there is no deduction.

Most of our staff are paid fulltime annualised wages which include 25% loading to cover overtime which is monitored and managed by relevant department heads.

We are a multicultural and ethical company which respects people's rights. We are disappointed to see this being portrayed differently. We have always assisted new migrants in this country and any references of exploitation are simply not true.