



# media release



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## **Hospitality union slams tobacco and alcohol sponsorship of hotels convention: undermines government policies on public & worker health**

LHMU - The hospitality union has slammed tobacco and alcohol sponsorship of the Australian Hotels Association 2009 National Convention, describing it as offensive to hospitality workers. The three day convention began today on the Gold Coast.

The AHA says registration fees for the three-day event have been kept to only \$695 "thanks to the generous support of our industry partners", including British American Tobacco.

Steven Miles, Campaign Director of the LHMU's **better jobs, better hotels** campaign says:

"AHA's acceptance of British American Tobacco's support is shocking and is a slap in the face of hospitality workers who suffer every day from the effects of passive smoking at work.

"We believe this raises serious questions about AHA's attitude towards the health and safety of their employees and patrons and, more broadly, whether they are out of step with community attitudes and government policies on smoking.

"The convention has an extensive program of entertainment, much of it incorporating alcoholic beverages. In fact, delegates will be subjected to as much as 17.5 hours of free alcohol during this event, including a "no cost!" tour of the Gold Coast's best pubs.

"Is it little wonder that the industry declines to support government efforts to encourage responsible drinking when the industry lobby group has a convention agenda and sponsors and partners of this kind?

"Alcohol industry sponsors include Lion Nathan, Fosters Group, Diageo, Coopers and the Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia, the peak national organisation representing and advancing the interests of manufacturers and importers of distilled spirits and liqueurs in Australia.

"We are very disappointed by AHA's choice of sponsors and have raised our concerns with the Australian Government in a letter to the Minister for Health, The Hon Nicola Roxon," says Steven Miles.

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