

BIC Column October 2012

The View from Canberra

Spring has sprung in the capital and with it has brought a reminder of why Canberra is a great place for a flying visit. In addition to the tourist trail of the Southern New South Wales food and wine region, Canberra in October is an opportunity for a few days well spent at the BIC National Conference.

I will elaborate on the Conference later in this column, but this month is a big month for the BIC in the work we are doing to inform the industry and provide businesses with the right tools for good decision making.

This is a key part of the BIC's work program and we see it not only as an industry development and membership service initiative, but as a key part of our lobbying effort.

A well informed industry is one of our biggest assets in spreading the message about the importance of the bus and coach industry to the Australian economy, society and environment.

To that end the BIC is launching three industry publications this month, a Door Safety for the Bus and Coach Industry, the Operator Guidelines for Accessible Public Transport Standards and a National Industrial Relations and Workplace Health and Safety Manual (National IR Manual).

The Door Safety Advisory for the Bus and Coach Industry looks at a range of best industry practice and technical specifications to assist operators improve driver and passenger safety in and around bus doors.

The Operator Guidelines for Accessible Transport Standards update and revise requirements for Bus Operators under the Disability Discrimination Act. Having a copy of and understanding these guidelines will help you understand where your operation is in terms of complying with the schedule of requirements under the legislation and if you need to make any changes in the years ahead.

The National IR Manual provides a set of transport industry specific set of guidelines, templates, policies and procedures for transport operators in dealing with changes to the industrial relations and workplace environment as a result of the Fair Work Act.

The National IR Manual will be available to direct APTIA members and members of State Associations and can be accessed by a subscription service, for more details please email admin@bic.asn.au.

All of these industry publications will be supported by sessions at the National Conference which will go into some depth about the subjects covered in them. For example the Conference session on Accessible Public Transport Standards will feature National Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes. You don't get any closer to the source than that and Graeme Innes should add some real value to the session for operators that are there.

This is yet another reason why the industry needs to throw its full support behind the BIC and the National Conference in Canberra.

BIC National Conference

The full and final Conference Program is available in this month's ABC Magazine. The BIC would like to thank all of the Conference Sponsors that are supporting what will be the key industry event in defining our lobbying strategy ahead of the 2013 Federal Election.

This year's Conference will also feature some unusual touches including the Big Red Kidney Bus which will give delegates an opportunity to have their kidney health tested in between all of the festivities that go with the social events at the Conference. The Big Red Kidney bus is an initiative from Kidney Health Australia.

You can view more information about the Conference at BIC's Ozebus website <http://ozebus.com.au/information-for-moving-people/bic-national-annual-conference>.

Accommodation is drying up fast in Canberra so it would be a good idea to get your registrations and book your accommodation as soon as possible.