



The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Sport
Member for Lilley

Ref No: MC22-023544

Mr Dennis Stark
Chief Executive Officer
Mitchell's Quality Foods / Lite n' Easy

s47F

Dear Mr Stark

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 December 2022 s47G

I am proud to stand beside Lite n' Easy which has been a longstanding contributor to economic activity and the creation of high-quality jobs in the Lilley electorate. I also acknowledge Lite n' Easy's ongoing support to the aged care sector through the provision of healthy and nutritious meals to a growing number of home care package recipients.

I recognise there are critical workforce shortages across a range of industry sectors that have been exacerbated by recent international border closures. I endorse the use of the PALM scheme by aged care providers and other businesses that support the aged care sector to access overseas workers where there is evidence of genuine local labour shortages. As you are aware, the Australian Government is seeking to increase the number of PALM scheme workers in Australia to around 35,000 by June 2023.

As you would appreciate, I am unable to comment specifically on PALM scheme applications that are pending a decision and I note that I do not have any authority to intervene in the operation of the scheme. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you s47G.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anika Wells

6 January 2023



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Chief Executive Officer
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Dear Mr Stark

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 December 2022 §47G

I am proud to stand beside Lite n' Easy and recognise the valuable role the company has played as a longstanding contributor to economic activity and the creation of high-quality jobs in the Lilley electorate. I also acknowledge Lite n' Easy's ongoing support to the aged care sector through the provision of healthy and nutritious meals to a growing number of home care package recipients.

I know there are critical workforce shortages across a range of industry sectors that have been exacerbated by recent international border closures. Where there is evidence of genuine labour shortages, I absolutely endorse the use of the PALM scheme by aged care providers and other businesses that support the aged care sector to access overseas workers. As you are aware, the Australian Government is seeking to increase the number of PALM scheme workers in Australia to around 35,000 by June 2023.

As you would appreciate, I am unable to comment specifically on PALM scheme applications that are pending a decision and I don't have any authority to intervene in the operation of the scheme. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you §47G

Thank you again for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anika Wells

2 February 2023