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GOVERNMENT ACTS QUICKLY BUT HOTEL SECTOR STILL STRUGGLING

The AHA has commended the Government for having acted on issues it raised regarding JobKeeper 2.0, particularly for businesses in Victoria, but CEO Stephen Ferguson has reminded the Federal Government the hospitality industry remains on the brink nationwide.

Mr Ferguson said the Government had shown throughout this crisis it would listen and implement change where needed, but more needs to be done in coming months.

"We thank the Government for the adjustments to JobKeeper 2.0, and for having acted so quickly" he said.

"In particular, we welcome the changes to the business turnover test and resetting the employee eligibility date."

Mr Ferguson said the AHA would continue to engage with the Government on further changes to JobKeeper.

"This crisis has a long way to go and is playing out differently in different regions and sectors across the country," he said.

"While we put health first, our aim is to ensure the financial support networks for employers and employees provide the necessary assistance in the different circumstances evolving nationwide.

"We will work with Government to ensure the formula of support schemes is targeted to our struggling sector.

"The hospitality, accommodation and tourism sector is continuing to pay a huge cost through this crisis.

"We want as many of those businesses as possible to survive and be able to re-open their doors, provide safe jobs, and a safe social hub for their communities.

"The hospitality and accommodation sector is also bearing massive additional increases in costs to ensure safe environments are provided to staff and patrons as we work together to defeat COVID-19 - this includes staff training, contact tracing, and additional COVID security.

"Other sectors, whilst having suffered, may not have incurred additional costs and may have actually enjoyed reduced cost structures such as reduced travel or office costs."

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