



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **VICTORIAN HOTEL INDUSTRY CLOSE TO THE EDGE**

The nation's peak hospitality body said the continued delay in reopening the Victorian hospitality and accommodation sector is causing immense financial and mental stress for employers and employees.

AHA National CEO Stephen Ferguson said Victoria has over 26,000 businesses in the hospitality, accommodation and food services sector employing over 200,000 people.

"The hospitality and accommodation sectors in every other Australian state and territory have reopened safely.

"Hotels across regional Victoria have not had any recorded COVID infections and the NSW and Victorian rolling 7 day averages are both below ten cases".

"NSW venues are able to open with one patron per 4 square metres, up to a maximum of 300 people."

"I see no reason why Victoria should suffer further delay in reopening."

Mr Ferguson said every Victorian hotel has a Covid Safe plan including digital sign in, Covid safety marshals, all patrons must be seated and heightened cleaning to ensure staff and patrons stay safe.

He said the pain of the restrictions on their jobs and businesses are not being shared equally.

"The hospitality and accommodation sectors have borne the financial brunt and ongoing mental stress of this continued shutdown by the Victorian Government," he said.

"The financial and emotional pressure on our hoteliers is building each and every day, and I don't know how much longer they can sustain it."

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