

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 15, 2020**

## **Victoria's Community Clubs are COVID-19 Safe!**

### **Clubs enable Victorians to belong!**

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) has repeated two key points to the Andrews Government, Members of Parliament, the media and other key stakeholders throughout the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Community clubs are COVID-19 safe and our re-opening plan is based on the same successful model developed by Clubs NSW and Clubs QLD, which has guided the safe and steady re-opening of venues in their respective states.
2. Community clubs in Victoria are proud to have more than 3,000,000 members and employ at least 30,000 staff. Clubs are often the centre of a community and allow our people to be part of society – particularly those who are single, aged or live with partners or family members who are ill. Sadly, the data published in recent days regarding a physical and mental health catastrophe that is confronting Victoria only confirms our advice that for many people their local club is their only community. They belong in their club!

CCV CEO Andrew Lloyd said the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, in conjunction with leading health officials, have understood that venues with indoor facilities can operate safely so long as they mandate various infection control measures.

“By virtue of members and casual patrons being required to sign in we know who is in in the venue, for how long and who they are mingling with. We know where they live and how to contact them.

“This is complemented by accepted infection control measures, including appropriate social distancing, hand sanitising, patron to room limits and mask wearing as appropriate and COVID Marshalls patrolling all venues.

“The Chief Health Officer would do well to recognise this and work out how community clubs can be part of the solution – not incorrectly see them as part of the problem.

“Community clubs are on standby to work with the Andrews Government and his medical experts to get Victoria moving in a safe post COVID-19 environment. We have a chance to get Victorians back on track in terms of their physical and mental health, but every day delayed will mean the catastrophe gets worse.

“Premier, it's time to open community clubs now!”

CCV clubs contribute over \$1 billion a year to the Victorian economy and employ more than 30,000 people.