

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Victoria's Community Clubs are COVID-19 Safe!

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) has confirmed its 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.

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.

"Our offering is underpinned by the fact that every person who enters a venue – be they a staff member, supplier, member or casual patron – must sign in on entry and then sign out on departure," said Mr Lloyd.

"We know who they are, where they live, and when and how long they were in the venue. We can then cross-reference that data with all clubs.

"This is complemented by accepted infection control measures, including appropriate social distancing, hand sanitising, patron to room limits and mask wearing as appropriate.

"We are confident that our inherent contact tracing measures are first rate," said Mr Lloyd.

Mr Lloyd said that CCV has been an active and vocal member of the Government's Industry Advisory Group and has appreciated the support of the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Melissa Horne as it advocates for a safe and steady re-opening of venues around Victoria.

"As the 14 day rolling infection rates in metropolitan Melbourne approaches the target figure of 5, and we know the same figure in regional Victoria has been below one for several weeks, we call on the Andrews Government and the Chief Health Officer to acknowledge that the CCV re-opening plan is safe and venues should be allowed to service their members and communities at the earliest opportunity," said Mr Lloyd.

"If there is significant movement on 19 October, beyond allowing venues to offer limited outdoor dining, we estimate up to 200 community clubs around Victorian may dodge the proverbial bullet. A recent audit of clubs shows the financial viability of community clubs is dire but a safe but prompt re-opening will enable venues to gain momentum in the lead up to the peak Christmas-New Year period.

"The same audit has shown that more than 75% of community clubs cannot offer outdoor dining as envisaged under the Government's initial Roadmap to Recovery.

"We know the average costs incurred by clubs during lockdown is \$59,800 per month. That represents a loss to the Victorian economy and club communities of millions of dollars a month.

"CCV's case is simple – community clubs are safe and have the most effective contact tracing systems already in place. We stand ready to re-open to serve our members and the communities in which we operate.

"Our clubs have over 3,000,000 members who need to reconnect to their communities," Mr Lloyd said.

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