

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**12 November 2020**

**13<sup>th</sup> Day of Double Zeros in Victoria**

**Every day of certainty before Christmas could be the difference between business survival and failure!**

Community Clubs Victoria is calling on the Andrews Government to urgently give the hospitality industry certainty about re-opening plans to provide for businesses to plan ahead.

With no new COVID-19 infections for the 13<sup>th</sup> day running, CCV says there can be no reasonable and informed health advice to keep prohibitive patron limits in place.

CCV CEO Andrew Lloyd said that booking inquiries have understandably taken off at all venues as Victorians crave a return to semi-normality, but accommodating all enquiries isn't possible under current restrictions.

"To deny patrons and business owners the opportunity to trade profitably in December and plan for Summer months is grossly unfair. December 1 is nearly three weeks away. It is not unreasonable to expect more certainty from the Government.

"If a venue receives a call for a large booking for a date in December or over Summer today, they can't accept it with confidence. The Andrews Government is giving the industry no certainty and clear direction which we desperately need!

"It is a well-known fact that Christmas/New Year trade sustains many venues to the extent that it provides a buffer for the slower winter months.

"We are not confident that venues or related businesses will survive when Jobkeeper lifts next April/May if they don't have the opportunity to take bookings and trade freely in the lead up to Christmas.

"There is a double hit in regional communities where the once thriving tourism and events industries have been decimated. Literally tens of millions of dollars are being lost weekly around the State even when there been no new infections in most of regional Victoria for several months.

"For the record, Community Clubs Victoria rejects outright that the outdoor dining option is realistic particularly when industry data demonstrates it is not available to more than 70% of venues around the State.

"Every venue in Victoria must have a COVID safe plan. Ours is based on the highly successful Clubs NSW and Queensland model. CCV takes our shared responsibilities towards safety incredibly seriously and the Victorian community can have confidence that we can deliver a COVID safe environment and experience – and at the same time reminding them it is OK to have fun and celebrate!" Mr Lloyd said.

**About/Follow up details**

Community Clubs Victoria represents more than 1000 clubs around Victoria. CCV clubs contribute over \$1 billion a year to the Victorian economy and employs more than 30,000 people. CCV proudly supports over 3,000,000 members. For further information – Andrew Lloyd – 03 8851 4900