

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Restricted numbers make operation of most clubs unworkable**

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) can confirm that most of its 1,000 member clubs around Victoria are operating at a substantial loss under the COVID-19 re-opening plan, which restricts patronage, sporting participation and indoor community activity.

CCV CEO Andrew Lloyd said that for the majority of clubs, running a dedicated kitchen and bar is totally unfeasible with only 40 patrons at the venue at any one time – with a maximum of 10 per room.

“The Government has built its response on a 1 person per 4 square metre rule. While this might work for smaller venues, larger ones can safely accommodate greater numbers and still incorporate the 1 x 4 metre rule with a range of other safeguards,” Mr Lloyd said.

“The Government believes the hospitality industry, including CCV clubs, should be embracing the outdoor dining plan. While it might work on paper, it’s not a practical solution for a number of reasons. Over 75% of clubs simply cannot provide outdoor dining, Victoria’s weather is very unpredictable and often unpleasant.

“Another factor that appears to be ignored is that most clubs provide more than just food and beverage options. We represent golf clubs, tennis clubs, bowls clubs, and some that offer all three. We represent nearly 200 gaming clubs around Victoria. All these operations are either prohibited from operating or can only do so under severe restrictions, and yet these facilities require ongoing maintenance and upkeep. It’s costing our clubs a fortune to effectively stay closed.”

Mr Lloyd said that many clubs sadly no longer have any cash reserves to continue to operate with current limitations in place.

“Unfortunately, we are at a tipping point and the Government needs to act now,” Mr Lloyd said.

Last week CCV wrote to all Victorian based ALP members of the Commonwealth and State Parliament highlighting the plight of clubs in this state. CCV called on the support of ALP MPs to help clubs get back into business – and to ensure they can continue to serve the communities in which they operate.

CCV represents more than 1,000 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.

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