
CLOSE CONTACT CHANGES WELCOMED BY NSW HOSPITALITY

NSW's hospitality sector has welcomed today's announcement by the NSW government that close contacts who test negative will no longer be required to isolate.

Australia's peak body for restaurants, cafes and caterers, Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has been calling for these measures to be eased for months and the announcement will go a long way to supporting the current staffing shortage that NSW hospitality is facing.

R&CA CEO Wes Lambert has stated that today's announcement was a no-brainer.

"Today's announcement that close contacts who test negative no longer have to isolate will not only be a relief for those who would normally have to isolate but don't have COVID-19, but it will also help to alleviate the issue that venues have of workers having to constantly isolate if someone in their home has the virus".

"Of course, we know that we aren't out of the woods just yet with this virus, but this is a flexible and workable solution to a massive problem that venues across the state are facing on a day-to-day basis".

"Every day we hear reports of businesses having to remain shut because staff are forced to isolate despite the fact that they are repeatedly testing negative".

"After repeated calls for the scrapping of remaining COVID-19 restrictions that have placed immense burdens on business, the NSW government has made the sensible decision to ease these laws," Mr Lambert said.

"Now that we understand how COVID-19 spreads and its effects, it's time that we learn to live with this virus. We need our governments to be courageous in supporting our communities and our businesses to rebuild and regain the lives they had before".

R&CA will continue to monitor this development and advocate for policy that will support NSW's hospitality sector.



MEDIA RELEASE
20 April 2022

For further information on this media release, please contact:

Wes Lambert

Chief Executive Officer

Restaurant & Catering Industry Association

P: 1300 722 878 or 0488 579 888

E: wes@rca.asn.au