
EASING RESTRICTIONS WELCOMED BY VICTORIAN HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Victoria's hospitality sector has welcomed today's announcement by the Victorian government that COVID-19 restrictions will ease from 11:59pm this Friday.

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, in order to bring Victoria in line with its neighbouring states and is pleased that these appeals have been agreed to.

R&CA CEO Wes Lambert has stated that hospitality venues have breathed a collected sigh of relief at today's news.

"The announcement that check-ins and masks will be scrapped this Friday is a prayer that has been finally answered".

"Hospitality is fed up with being singled out by COVID-19 restrictions while the rest of the economy moves on and it's fantastic to see that progress has been made in letting businesses getting back to doing what they do best".

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

"Every day I have received reports from venue operators fearing the abuse from angry customers who are fed up with these redundant requirements. I have even had calls from operators who were considering hiring full-time security guards just to protect young staff from irate customers. This just doesn't fly any longer".

Mr Lambert also stated that changes to rules for close contacts would help to solve the crippling staff shortage that the industry was already facing.

"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".



MEDIA RELEASE
20 April 2022

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

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