



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday, 28 July 2021**

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT WELCOME**

The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) has welcomed the announcement of additional support for New South Wales and Victoria in response to their lockdowns and trading restrictions, demonstrating their willingness to listen.

AHA CEO Stephen Ferguson commended the Federal and State Governments for the amendments to the Federal Government's JobSaver scheme, the NSW COVID Disaster Payment and the Victorian Business Support Package, which will provide critical relief to more businesses and workers.

"The expansion of the NSW Business Support Payment will provide payments of between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week, with a turnover threshold of \$250 million, assisting those businesses to pay fixed costs and maintain their employee headcount," Mr Ferguson said.

"The new Victorian Support Package of \$400 million, split 50/50 between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, will help deliver much-needed cash flow for hotels as they emerge from the lockdown, but still operating under capacity restrictions."

"Increasing the COVID-19 disaster payments for eligible workers to \$750 per week if they lose 20 hours or more of work and making those payment available from day one of any future lockdown will be of immense assistance to our staff."

"The assistance to business is welcome and helps keep people's head above water but those businesses continue to accrue substantial levels of debt each and every day that they remain closed or under restrictions – debt that must be repaid."

"Our employees just want to get back to work, but getting money into their pockets as quickly as possible will help them navigate this crisis and we commend both tiers of Government for their timely response."

"In addition to the contributions from Governments, all Australians can lend a hand to help our businesses and workers by getting vaccinated when they are able to do so."

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