



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**ACCOMMODATION HOTELS READY TO CONTINUE TO DO HEAVY LIFTING WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING QUARANTINE PROGRAM**

The nation's top tourism accommodation body has welcomed the increase in the cap on returning Australians to 6000 a week, Tourism Accommodation Australia CEO Michael Johnson said today.

"The increase comes at a time when CBD hotels right around Australia are basically at a standstill due to the on-going border closures, no international tourists and a lack of any corporate or major events," Mr Johnson said.

"So we welcome the move by the Federal Government and are ready to continue to do our part in the fight against COVID.

"While regional hotels in some states are starting to see some slight recovery, plenty of capacity remains in capital city hotels like Sydney, but there does need to be strong support from State Governments when it comes to policing and security to ensure quarantining remains effective.

"Hotels have done a lot of the heavy lifting when it comes to the quarantine program, however, some hotels have been unfairly caught up in criticism of the scheme, when external security matters are actually out of their hands.

"Despite this, most accommodation venues are ready to continue to help in the fight against the pandemic and we welcome today's announcement - which will bring Australians home from overseas safely, while at the same time helping jobs in our struggling sector."

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