

Tuesday, July 13 2021

SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR STRUGGLING ACCOMMODATION HOTELS

Peak industry bodies, Tourism Accommodation Australia and the Accommodation Association said today's joint Federal and NSW Government support package provided targeted and essential support in dire times for the accommodation sector.

TAA NSW CEO Michael Johnson said prior to the Sydney lockdown, Sydney hotels were at sub 50 per cent occupancy and facing substantial cancellations all the way through to August due to border closures and CBD lockdowns around the country. It then dropped to 2% occupancy overnight with the Greater Sydney lockdown.

"Thousands of our staff in greater Sydney are stood down and many more in the regions have had reduced hours because of cancellations due to the lockdown and border closures," said Mr Johnson.

"These revised disaster payments will allow our staff to get through this period without having to leave our industry altogether. We are already facing a skills shortage and when we are able to trade we will need these people more than ever," he said.

Accommodation Association CEO Dean Long said the package is welcome news for smaller and medium accommodation providers, and ongoing consultation was needed with government to make sure the larger hotels receive the necessary support to stay afloat.

"These measures are the targeted and essential support so critically needed for Sydney's hotels and regional accommodation providers in these dire times. The industry and their teams will sleep a little easier tonight knowing that there is now some breathing space and certainty."

"Our people and our properties, especially those in Sydney and Melbourne, have been so hard hit as a result of the international travel ban, the ongoing border closures and most recently the Melbourne and Sydney shutdown. We appreciate the consultation and specific acknowledgement of the impact on the Accommodation sector with a sector support package of \$26 million."

Both bodies welcomed the decision to provide the COVID-19 Commonwealth Disaster Payment to those outside declared hotspots as the downturn in business is widespread across the state.

Media Contact:

AA LJ Loch 0488 038 555 or ljloch@alphaconsulting.global

TAA Craig Vaughan 0423 796 382