

21 September 2021



A Statement from the Chairman and President of Community Clubs Victoria, Greg Roberts

Andrews Roadmap Fails Community Clubs and Victorians

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) is frustrated and disappointed in the Victorian Government's Roadmap, released on Sunday, for being so restrictive it makes it unviable for most Clubs to reopen.

Those Clubs that do reopen will do so only because they feel the need to reengage with some staff, rather than lose them to other industries, and will continue to lose money.

Restrictive venue capacity limits of 10 inside and 20 outside is the main issue.

Previously the Victorian Government has allowed the industry to reopen from previous lockdowns with 50 patrons or 100 patrons inside. Where did 10 come from? It is completely unworkable.

There are many venues that do not have outside areas to cater for patrons, so they are restricted to just 10 people inside their business.

Clubs have been at the forefront of compliance and once the State reaches the 70 per cent double-vax threshold, venues should be able to open to fully vaccinated patrons subject to the one person per 4sqm inside and one person per 2sqm outside.

Limiting metro venues to 50 patrons outdoors and regional venues to 30 patrons inside is far too restrictive and will send these clubs over the financial cliff.

Currently, on the NSW Victorian border NSW clubs and venues can open with 1 person per 4sqm inside and one person per 2sqm outside but the Victorian clubs and venues are limited to 10 people inside for another 5 weeks.

CCV understands the need for a cautious approach to reopening but there is a difference between cautious and too restrictive. The current excessive restrictions will see clubs and venues on the brink of financial ruin. A recent survey of over 1000 clubs around Victoria has shown that more than 40% are on the brink of collapse. Just 2 in 10 Clubs that are eligible will reopen under the current roadmap.

It is critical that the Victorian Government continues to provide ongoing financial support to Clubs under the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund. It must be extended to include October and November or we will see venues close because of the financial hardship.

Clubs are losing staff who are leaving hospitality to work in other industries that are not continually locked down. This support is critical to allow Clubs to continue to support and keep their staff.

Clubs employ over 30,000 Victorians and jobs will continue to be lost, and livelihoods negatively affected, if the Victorian Government continues with the excessively restrictive approach to reopening. We must find a better balance between the health concerns and business needs.

Clubs want to play their part in getting Victoria back on track.

Clubs have a history of strong compliance with the relevant legislation and are willing to work with the Government to trial vaccination systems for patrons and staff, but we must be able to have more than 10 people inside a venue.

ENDS

For further information contact CCV CEO Andrew Lloyd on [0411 555 943](tel:0411555943).