



MEDIA RELEASE

27 April 2022

Business bodies welcome close contact requirement shift

Tasmania's peak business bodies have welcomed the changes to COVID close contact requirements announced by the Premier today.

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO, Michael Bailey said the changes reflected the views of major industries across the state.

"At yesterday's Tasmanian Industry Summit, it was agreed that COVID-19 has led to extraordinary restrictions on individuals and businesses and that these restrictions have impacted on many businesses by reducing potential revenue and increasing costs," Mr Bailey said.

"The State Government should be commended for changing the close contact requirements, and commended for continuing to work closely with the Tasmanian business community throughout the pandemic.

"Although today's announcement is a great step forward, bringing us in line with other states, there's still more to be done to get Tasmania back to business as usual.

"We look forward to the removal of more measures which have impacted Tasmanian businesses, such as density restrictions and restrictive, overreaching COVID plans."

Tasmanian Small Business Council CEO, Robert Mallett said the removal of the need for close contacts to isolate for seven days would reduce a massive burden on businesses, who have been facing significant staff resourcing challenges because of the rule.

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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“This close contact change solves a huge problem for businesses, many of which have been left short-staffed because perfectly healthy employees have been stuck at home,” Mr Mallett said.

“With high vaccination rates, plateauing case numbers and stable hospitalisations from COVID, this decision is a big step in the right direction as we deal with the new normal of not only living, but doing business with COVID.”

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