



Night Time
Industries
Association

Tuesday 24 March

For Immediate Release

Immediate cash relief needed to save venues on the edge

Urgent cash relief is needed to stop thousands of venues collapsing and tens of thousands of staff losing their jobs.

The Keep Our Venues Alive campaign is calling on Federal and State Governments to provide immediate cash relief direct into the pockets of those affected, including self employed business owners.

Feedback from small bar and independent operators indicates that the Federal Government stimulus measures announced on Sunday are hard to navigate and will not make a material difference in a timely manner (with an exception being the moratorium on bankruptcy which is directly applicable to their current plight).

The campaign said that incoherent messaging has meant many businesses were down 80% on revenue for the month of March, prior to the mandated close. The queues at Centrelink that are peaking now, were growing March 1.

While the campaign welcomes the announcement from Customer Service Minister Victor Dominello today in NSW regarding the lifting of licensing restrictions to allow venues to provide takeaway and home delivery of alcohol, we would also urge folk to think carefully about the economics of this initiative based on their circumstances.

While there are examples of this working in bars in NYC for the time being at least, it may be more challenging to make this work in our market. I say this because I believe that a number of food businesses who were doing take away and delivery have since stopped since Sunday's announcement, as these were incremental revenues derived from under utilised fixed costs (labour and rent).

Night Time Industries Association Chair, Michael Rodrigues said:

“Lack of clarity around physical distancing measures saw many operators try multiple times to win new audience, through initiatives such as price promotions, take away and delivery options...The view of many in the industry is that the mandated closures of venues is a better outcome than the death by a thousand cuts that has been inflicted particularly on food and beverage focussed business since the beginning of March”

“If nothing else the announcement from the Minister is hope for an industry desperately in need of it, that the NSW Government is willing to make changes to suit a new generation customers and industry operators. Further changes of this nature will help kickstart the economy and give NSW a competitive edge when we have navigated the immediate challenges of our day which require physical (as opposed to social) distancing.”

The Keep Our Venues Alive campaign is working to tell a cohesive story to Government at all levels across our states and territories. This is the route to fast, effective and manageable relief.

The Campaign Website is at: keepourvenuesalive.com

The Petition is Here: <https://www.change.org/KeepOurVenuesAlive>

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Media Enquiries: email info@ntia.org.au