

## Victorian roadmap to recovery must not take business backwards

**2 September 2020**

Victoria is at a critical fragile point in our path to recovery, and businesses must not be taken backwards through complexity and further restrictions, the Franchise Council of Australia says.

“The Government said they would simplify things with a matrix style traffic light system but already a fourth ‘pink light’ has been added. It’s too complex when you’re dealing with a minimum of ten industry sector categories,” said FCA CEO Mary Aldred.

“Through its membership, the FCA represents an estimated 55,000 individual small businesses and the feedback we are getting in Victoria is that there should be a simple, five point plan to get the state on the road to re-opening.”

“We recognise that the priorities are to give the public confidence the health system can manage outbreaks of COVID and that the contact tracing system has been fixed. But the next priority is to establish the ground rules for re-opening on a specific date, and if not able to satisfy them, don’t re-open; with strong compliance conditions attached,” said Mary Aldred.

“If the public know what is expected of them (ie masks, social distancing and so on) and effective monitoring, measuring and compliance is in place, we can Victorians back to work knowing there will be outbreaks but we will be ready and able to act quickly to manage and treat those outbreaks.”

“Small business is concerned by the emergence of a government mandated two tiered business system. If you’re working for a council, you can mow the lawn. If you’re a small business or contractor, you can’t. This has to stop when the Premier announces the re-opening roadmap on Sunday,” said Mary Aldred..

“Services including pool cleaning and home maintenance already have Covid-SAFE plans in place and minimum to zero customer contact and should be given a green light to operate, just like local government workers are able to. Businesses operating in regional areas with zero cases also must be able to re-open,” added Ms Aldred.

“FCA members in retailing say that removing the 5km limit is an important way of responsibly encouraging people to re-engage with local retailers,” said Ms Aldred.

The FCA will continue to strongly advocate to government and support its members on the path to business and social recovery as the impacts of the pandemic restrictions continue to reverberate across Australia.

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The Franchise Council of Australia is the peak body for the \$184 billion franchise business segment, which includes 1,344 networks, with 90,000+ individual franchised outlets, employing 598,500 Australians across the nation.

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