

KNU Government Advocacy

As the focus began to shift from case numbers to vaccination rates, the Associations advocacy was fine tuned to reflect the Federal Governments declaration that it is now responsible for funding individual COVID-19 disaster payments, while the State Governments are responsible for business support. With that in mind, we made the decision to place a greater emphasis on engaging directly with state and territory governments as we were plunged in and out of lockdown in most jurisdictions.

The Association has been active in strongly lobbying for the return of a Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme in all states and territories. In recent weeks Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT introduced programs that mandated rent relief for commercial tenants. In all three jurisdictions we worked with the governments to ensure our members were protected and put suggestions forward that were ultimately adopted into the regulations.

As we navigated the business support programs being introduced by individual jurisdictions the Association continued to be in constant communication with governments raising issues and advocating for further support. Two examples of this, in New South Wales we in conjunction with the TAA successfully advocated for additional support for accommodation, hospitality, and tourism industries by expanding the JobSaver program for businesses with aggregated annual turnover above \$250M and up to \$1B. In Victoria our advocacy led to an increase in the September round of the Business Cost Assistance Program (BCAP), payments are now tiered and based on payroll size.

We are continuing to strongly advocate on behalf of the industry for targeted accommodation packages in recognition that accommodation providers are some of the hardest affected businesses and will continue to be impacted by border closures and health measures that restrict movement.

As states and territories start looking beyond snap lockdowns and lockouts and towards reopening roadmaps, the Association is broadly discussing our industry priorities and what government and industry will need to do to ensure a safe and profitable restart for our industry.