



MEDIA RELEASE

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HOTEL SECTOR SHUTDOWN: AHA

This is a sad day for Australians with the shut-down of an Aussie institution – an unprecedented move in our peace-time history, AHA National CEO Stephen Ferguson said today.

“The health and well-being of our staff and patrons is paramount to all other considerations,” Mr Ferguson said.

“In times like this, it is essential for us all to follow the instructions of our Governments and medical officers.

“But there’s no doubt this move is already having a devastating impact on our direct national workforce of 250,000 and our millions of patrons.

“We saw what an important role hotels play in their communities during the recent bushfires across large parts of the nation - today’s closure is an unprecedented move which will have a big social impact for months to come.

“Our hoteliers, their families and staff are obviously devastated – we are doing all we can for them.

“Obviously this closure comes at a huge financial cost - many on-going bills will still need to be paid by mum and dad operators while the pub is not able to trade and have any income.

“Hotels are resilient, however, and we will continue to work with all Governments and the broader community to get through this crisis together.

“I can’t wait for the day I see the face of a smiling staff member behind the counter once again.”

Media Contact: Jason Bartlett, 0433 95 46 57 / Nikki Taylor 0435 791 363