

MEDIA RELEASE - 29/05/2021

URGENT BUSINESS ASSISTANCE A VITAL LIFELINE FOR VICTORIAN CHIROPRACTORS

Chiropractic Australia urgently calls on the Victorian Government to enable access to financial relief for healthcare businesses forced to restrict service delivery during the current circuit-breaker lockdown.

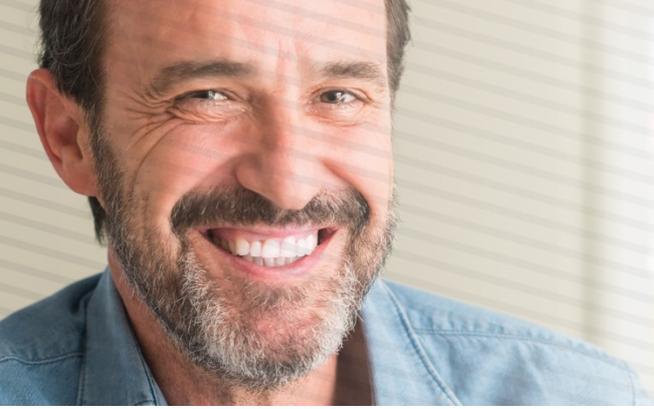
Many Victorian chiropractors in the private sector have restricted their practice to essential services – both by choice and under Victorian Government directives - in a bid to help slow the spread of COVID-19, as they have done on multiple other occasions throughout the pandemic.

This commitment to the health and wellbeing of our communities has, however, resulted in a significant financial impact for many private chiropractic practices across the State. As such, financial support from the Victorian Government is critical in ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality healthcare, and the ongoing viability of chiropractic and the broader Allied Health Sector of which it is a part.

“We thank the Victorian Government for allowing patients to continue to access urgent and essential face-to-face chiropractic care, but in order for private chiropractic practices to continue to provide quality, evidence-based care both during – and after – the current lockdown, access must be granted to business support programs immediately” says Adjunct Professor Rod Bonello, President, Chiropractic Australia.

In previous lockdowns, Chiropractors and other Allied Health providers were denied access to business support programs – as Health was not considered an eligible sector – even though these measures had essentially forced private practices to close completely for their respective durations. These practices continued to incur significant costs, such as wages and rent, during this time of stymied operation; despite being unable to generate revenue or receive government support.

Adjunct Professor Bonello continued “After the difficulties of last year, the circuit-breaker lockdown in February and the many restrictions placed on allied health private practice, many are continuing to find themselves in financial difficulties - which will only be exacerbated even further by this, and any future lockdowns. Our



members, and the broader Allied Health community, deserve the support they need to continue to provide essential care services through these challenging times”

Chiropractic Australia strongly urges the Victorian Government to include healthcare businesses -who are being forced to significantly restrict services - in its list of sectors eligible for assistance. It is imperative and urgent that this assistance is made accessible and communicated publicly to Allied Health providers across the state.

-ENDS-

Adjunct Professor Rod Bonello is available for further comment.

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Chiropractic Australia is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation established to promote safe, ethical and effective chiropractic care. Chiropractic Australia seeks to promote evidence based chiropractic care and inter-professional cooperation in order to improve community health through high quality, patient-focused care.