



NEW COVIDSAFE GUIDELINES

THE release of the new *COVIDSafe Guidelines for Business Events* (**BEN** breaking news 13 May) will help underpin the distinction between general gatherings and “highly organised and managed business events,” according to the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA).

The strategic principles have been delivered to Federal and State Governments with the hope of instilling confidence in Australia’s business events sector, so that COVID-19 restrictions can be safely lifted and the industry can restart.

The new guidelines focus on five key areas, giving organisers advice on safely managing a business event from the planning phase, the event itself and then afterwards.

The guidelines will be applied, adapted and implemented in a fit for purpose way across

the business events industry to ensure the highest level of COVID safety, BECA said.

BECA Chair Vanessa Findlay said the three step relaxation process proposed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison was a positive step forward.

“There is a recognition by Government...that given the right operating environment, large gatherings can be considered.

“We must now work closely with officials to ensure we can increase gathering numbers for business events, which will be critical for the industry’s rapid recovery, as well as that of the many businesses that rely on its success and the wider Australian economy,” she said.

BECA is also urging for clarity and consistency across states and territories so delegates can travel interstate for events - businessescouncil.org.au.

Marriott online

MARRIOTT International has launched new virtual meetings packages across 22 hotels in its Australian and New Zealand network.

Four different packages are available, with each Virtual Meeting including dedicated sales support, one agreement across multiple hotels and an AV specialist.

Seating plans in line with official guidelines, individual catering for each attendee and elevated sanitisation are also part of the plan.

The “Virtual Meetings by Marriott Bonvoy Events” packages lead in at \$1,150, with the option available at Four Points, Ritz-Carlton, Courtyard, Element, W, Autograph Collection, Sheraton and Westin hotels.

For details **CLICK HERE**.

Today’s issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

COVID-proof Crowne

SYDNEY’S new-look Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach is using a custom-built technology solution to enable meetings to be conducted across multiple spaces in the hotel and thus ensure safe social distancing.

Both video and audio content can be simultaneously shared across all of the property’s 11 meeting rooms, giving event organisers the flexibility to grow their registered delegate numbers beyond a single room.

GM Gareth Long said the hotel was also implementing a new “Meet Safe” initiative which would comply with restrictions once COVID-19 rules start to ease, including greater spacing between delegates and staggered catering breaks.




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WITH COVID-19 lockdowns still in place across the globe, many events are going digital, and Adelaide's 2020 Cabaret Festival is no different.

The annual floor show gala will deliver a curated collection of bite-sized clips from artists who were set to feature in the 2020 live program.

Cabaret devotees can tune in on social media from 05 to 20 Jun each week from Wed-Sat, where video memories will be posted, including photos from the cabaret archives as we tip our collective hats to 20 years of the Festival, which is directed by television presenter Julia Zemiro.

"While there is no way we could re-create the amazing program the team and I had put together this year, we didn't want to leave an empty space," Zemiro said.

The online Festival will include a sumptuous lineup, including Kate Ceberano.

MeetGB goes virtual

VISITBRITAIN will showcase the best of the UK's business events at an upcoming online event called MeetGB Virtual.

The two-day live, virtual exhibition will feature more than 60 suppliers, with buyers invited to attend 10 pre-scheduled online meetings - more at visitbritain.com.

NZ go-ahead

TICKETED large events, including domestic business events and conferences, can now proceed in New Zealand as the country continues to ease COVID-19 restrictions.

New guidelines stipulate requirements that events be seated, have facilities to enable contact tracing, and implement physical distancing, good hygiene procedures and safe service of food and beverages.

Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) CEO Lisa Hopkins hailed the clarity provided by the NZ Government, and the acknowledgement that business events should be viewed differently to social gatherings.

"This helps the New Zealand business events sector restart for domestic attendees, and is the first step in the right direction," Hopkins said.

The current 100-person cap applies to the first stage of Alert Level Two in NZ, and will be revisited next week.

Hopkins said the cap may be increased in phases, "although we don't have any certainty around if or when these phases might begin, which of course makes planning extremely difficult".

The NZ Government has pledged to support the events sector in any ongoing discussions about further relaxations of the country's coronavirus restrictions.

Having trouble unpacking the government stimulus packages and how they can help your business? Read the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

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travelBulletin



TAFE NSW EVENTS ONLINE



THE COVID-19 pandemic isn't stopping TAFE NSW students from continuing to learn about the events sector, with teaching in the Diploma of Event Management being conducted using web conferencing technology this term.

Recent graduate, Emily Leung (**pictured**) is putting her skills to good use after landing her dream job as an Events Operations and Marketing Executive at the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia.

In her new role Emily is playing a key part in organising the upcoming worldwide webinar to celebrate Global Exhibitions Day on 03 Jun, conducted in partnership with ICC Sydney (**BEN 05** May).

With 96% of 2020 events scheduled in Australia either postponed or cancelled, she is thrilled to use the skills gained

through her TAFE NSW Diploma to re-engage the marketplace.

"Exhibition and business events have been particularly impacted by the effects of COVID-19, but I have been lucky enough to work in a role where I can use my skills to support the recovery goals of the industry so our members are ready to take on the new world of business events," she said.

TAFE NSW Head Teacher on Travel, Tourism and Events, Kathy Herd, said it was fantastic to see Emily applying the practical skills and experience gained during her studies to the workplace.

"Her innovative approach using digital technology and problem-solving skills on this global event will benefit both her employer and the industry in this challenging environment," Herd said.