

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **HUGE JOBS BOOST WITH HOTELS RE-OPENING TODAY**

In a major boost to the NSW economy more than 44,000 bar staff, chefs, baristas, sommeliers and waiters and waitresses will start back at work this week as hotels re-open their doors to patrons.

50 people are now allowed in hotels across NSW - with 50 more allowed in separate dining areas.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said this means 44,500 hotel staff members across NSW would be back at work in hotels from today - about 24,500 in metropolitan hotels and 20,000 in regional areas.

“This is great news for hoteliers, our staff and our loyal patrons’ right across NSW,” he said.

“We have 44,500 staff back out of our workforce of 75,000 – more will be put on in coming weeks as COVID-19 restrictions are hopefully lifted further.

“This is a massive step forward for hotels and the NSW economy.

“Social distance rules will apply and capacity will be restricted but our hotels will start re-employing thousands of workers again – from chefs and baristas to waitresses and bar staff. This is also great news for the hundreds of thousands of people indirectly employed by hotels from the local butcher to maintenance workers.

“The entire hospitality sector has been hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis with hotels shut down across NSW and 94% of our workforce stood down or terminated.

“Hotels have struggled to survive – today marks the start of our come back as a great place for our communities to meet, relax and socialise.

“Hoteliers have rightly put the health and safety of staff, patrons and the community first as we battle together to contain the spread of COVID-19, but the virus has obviously devastated hotels and our workforce.

“We look forward to the day when we can safely fully re-open, re-employ our staff and pour a cold draught beer for our loyal patrons – hopefully that day is not far off as we work together to beat COVID-19.”

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