

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Health
By email minister.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Dr Brett Sutton
Chief Health Officer
By email officeofcho@health.vic.gov.au

9 September 2021

Easing of regional restrictions and allied health services

Dear Minister Foley and Dr Sutton

We refer to the Premier's media release of 8th September and the associated Table of State-wide Restrictions from 11.59pm on Thursday 9th September.

The Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) appreciates the need to consider all possible health risks when amending COVID-19 public health restrictions.

However, we are very concerned that under the eased restrictions for regional Victoria, chiropractors and other allied health professionals in private practice are still not permitted to treat patients face-to-face unless it is for essential care and the care/service is not able to be provided via telehealth.

As you are aware, all allied health professionals including chiropractors are trained in PPE and infection control. Despite this, the current health advice suggests that allied health services present more of a COVID-19 risk than regional hairdressers, beauticians, and café owners, who, provided they wear a mask, are now permitted to have face-to-face contact with up to 10 customers at a time.

On behalf of all ACA members in regional Victoria we are asking you to urgently reconsider the restrictions on regional allied health professionals.

We understand Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) has also written to both of you this morning, outlining identical concerns to those above, and that AHPA would welcome any discussion with you about this matter.

Sincerely



Adjunct Associate Professor Matthew Fisher PhD DHIthSt (honoris causa)
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Chiropractors Association