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**BE.  
BENDIGO**

# MEDIA RELEASE

19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## **Be.Bendigo, Bendigo's Chamber of Commerce, has joined calls for an easing of isolation requirements for household close contacts.**

With Bendigo booming over Easter, and the Elvis: Direct from Graceland continuing to draw visitors to the area, the long anticipated Covid recovery is being slowed for many businesses and workers by current isolation requirements for household close contacts.

Under current rules applying to most workplaces, household contacts of a person who tests positive for Covid-19 must undertake seven days of isolation, regardless of their test results.

The Victorian Chamber and Business NSW have proposed that changes be made to enable household contacts who are feeling well should be permitted to go out in public and attend work, provided that they undertake a daily Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) before they go out.

“The current isolation requirements make it hard for business to plan their staffing with certainty, making it difficult to maximise business opportunities through this Covid recovery period, and reducing their ability to provide services to their customers and clients”, said Be.Bendigo CEO Rob Herbert.

“We continue to hear stories of healthy people being required to isolate – some on multiple occasions – due to Covid-19 cases in their household. This takes them out of the workforce and often unnecessarily disrupts business operations, when they don't actually become positive themselves,” he continued.

“With wider availability of RATs now, if people are otherwise well, a daily negative RAT should provide a level of assurance that people can go to work, and the pace of the Covid recovery can step up”.

## **RELEASE ENDS**

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