

Meetings & Events Australia last week met with the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Simon Birmingham, along with Austrade and tourism industry leaders to be briefed on the Federal Government's response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Minister advised that all departments and agencies across the government are working together to ensure that the general public is well informed, and it is taking a cautionary approach based on the latest medical advice.

The Chief Medical Officer for the Australian Government, Professor Brendan Murphy, has issued some early advice and guidance for tourism operators on managing concerns over the Coronavirus. The advice includes:

- Guests who are well but may be incubating the virus should isolate themselves in their hotel rooms. As an added precaution, isolation should be for 14 days.
- Practical information for your staff on engaging with guests who are well, but are in isolation.
- The importance of guests in isolation seeking medical advice if they become ill.
- Accessing further information on this emerging situation: www.health.gov.au

The Department of Health has developed two fact sheets – one for hotel management and staff and the other for hotel guests.

If you have further concerns, you should contact your state or territory public health authority on the below numbers:

ACT: (02) 5124 9213 (business hours) or (02) 9962 4155 (after hours).

NSW: 1300 066 055

NT: (08) 8922 8044

QLD: 13HEALTH (13 432 584)

SA: 1300 252 272

TAS: 1800 671 738

VIC: 1300 651 160

WA: (08) 9328 0533

Please note that MEA will post further updates on our website.

Call for Industry Feedback

Both the bushfires and the Coronavirus have impacted the tourism industry over a peak time of year, impacting domestic and international travel, particularly out of China which is a key tourism and incentive market for Australia. The events industry has similarly been affected. There have been stories of cancellations across Australia from venues, hotels and tourism attractions.

To inform government of how the fires and Coronavirus have impacted the events industry, MEA would like you to advise us, confidentially, of business that has either been cancelled or postponed and the potential loss of revenue that this represents.

Please send your response to mea@mea.org.au. All information will be kept confidential and will only be used collectively to inform the government of the impact and cost on the events industry.

Thank you for your support.

Robyn Johnson
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Meetings & Events Australia