

Notice of Motion No 3/2021

Notice of Motion 03/2021: Crs Morgan, Batagol & Scott

We hereby give notice of our intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held at 7.00pm on 6 September 2021, virtual via zoom:

“That Council

1. Notes that the current lockdown, which has been in place for more than 4 weeks, is based on expert health advice, and is in place to protect our community due to the critical public health risk posed by the Delta variant of COVID19.

2. Notes that lockdowns play an important role in containing COVID19 through reduction of transmission, and has been the main mechanism available to manage the spread of COVID19 while vaccine supplies have been constrained in Victoria.

3. Notes the serious consequences of easing current lockdown restrictions too soon on the health system and the impact of the pandemic on health workers, such as nurses and doctors, as found in several scientific studies, including the ***"Psychological well-being of Australian hospital clinical staff during the COVID-19 pandemic"***, published by the CSIRO and in the Australian Health Review, 2021, Issue 45.

4. Notes that:

- 35% of Stonnington residents are aged 18-34 years, and our median age is 35 years.
- 44.2% of Stonnington residents rent.
- Stonnington is home to 18,512 businesses creating 70,456 local jobs, and the retail trade (20.4% per cent) and health care and social assistance (17.0%) industries are Stonnington's largest employers.

Our community has been disproportionately impacted by lockdowns, as the ***COVID-19 Financial Impact Index*** listing suburbs within Stonnington as having experienced a high to extreme economic impact from the pandemic during 2020, and significant sections of our community are continuing to experience severe economic impact from the pandemic.

Thus, our community has a high proportion of local business owners and residents, who through no fault of their own, have been unable to operate their businesses, or have been stood down from work without pay, and have been unable to pay rent, mortgages or other bills.

5. Notes that support for people during lockdown last year, in the form of a state moratorium on evictions, and income support through JobKeeper and JobSeeker, played an important role in helping people stay home and contain the virus.

6. Notes that the National Cabinet has endorsed a National plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 response, which is a phased roadmap for re-opening

Australia, and includes thresholds based on vaccination levels for when different kinds of restrictions can be eased, and effectively acts as a high-level timetable for when different types of businesses and services can re-open.

7. Requests the Mayor to urgently write to the Premier (or any relevant Ministers) asking:

a) The State Government to reinstate the moratorium on evictions, rent relief for eligible tenants, and suspension of rental increases, as was in place last year.

b) The State Government open up businesses, including retail and hospitality businesses as soon as possible, according to the public health advice, with any needed additional safety measures including the following:

- All people eligible for vaccinations working at the business have been fully vaccinated,
- All customers must also be fully vaccinated (or ineligible for vaccinations, or be unvaccinated on medical grounds), and must present a valid vaccination certificate when checking in upon arrival at the business.
- Provide additional support for small businesses who can't reopen due to the current public health advice, to help them pivot to other service delivery methods where possible.

8. Requests the Mayor to urgently write to the Federal Treasurer asking for the Commonwealth Government to reinstate income support payments to assist workers and job seekers impacted by the most recent lockdowns, to the same levels that were in place last year.

References:

National Plan to Transition Australia's National Covid-19

Response: <https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/national-plan-to-transition-australias-national-covid-19-response-30-july-2021.pdf>

The Jobkeeper Scheme in place during Victoria's 2nd lockdown in

2020: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper>

The DHHS Victoria site on Residential Rent relief for COVID-19, which now just notes the scheme closed on 28th March

2021: <https://rentrelief.covid19.dhhs.vic.gov.au/>

"Psychological well-being of Australian hospital clinical staff during the COVID-19 pandemic", published by the CSIRO and in the Australian Health

Review, 2021, Issue 45: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/ah/pdf/AH20203>

The COVID-19 Financial Impact Index:

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/data-shows-melbourne-suburbs-worst-hit-by-covid-19-financial-impact-20200608-p550kb.html>

and: <https://taylorfry.com.au/articles/covid-19-financial-impact-index/>

Signed

Cr Polly Morgan

Cr Nicki Batagol

Cr Mike Scott

Dated : 4 September 2021

Received by Chief Executive Officer: 4 September 2021