

Your name
Your business
Your business address
Your contact email

September 2021

Name of MP or Minister
Name of Electorate OR Name of Portfolio
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
first.last@parliament.govt.nz

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe / Kia ora / Dear

Targeted assistance for those hit the hardest by Alert Level restrictions

I would like to acknowledge the Government's efforts to keep the plight of hospitality top of mind as the response to COVID-19 continues to evolve. While I am grateful the Government acknowledges the concerns raised by our sector, in many cases we have not seen any action or little effort to improve the response.

I am writing to you to share with you a personal story of the Alert Level 4 and 3 impact on my business, my employees and my life.

As you will be aware, for those of us in hospitality, every Alert Level 4 lockdown sends our businesses scrambling - scrambling to save thousands of dollars worth of stock, scrambling to pay wages as per normal, and scrambling to pay ongoing overheads, all while revenue remains at \$0. At Level 3 many in our industry remain unable to trade. Those that do, are not necessarily set up to do so successfully. There are some that trade successfully but they are not the average business.

While the government has acknowledged hospitality continues to be one of the hardest hit, acknowledgement doesn't make up for the monumental losses my business continues to incur as a result of the Government's response.

It seems common sense that there should be a different level of government assistance for those businesses prevented by law from earning any income, to those who are able to work from home and keep revenue coming in.

[Write your personal story here...] Add anything about your personal experience, what are your challenges, how are you coping. Why it is important that you are heard?

e.g The past 18 months have been the worse in my 18 years of trade.

e.g I have amassed \$500,000 worth of debt, secured by my home, to see through these lockdowns

e.g I have had to let go 17 staff members, two of whom who have been with me since I opened the business in 2011

e.g It is not an exaggeration to say that many of my colleagues as well as myself, see hospitality as the sacrificial lamb

I support the call for the Government to consider establishing an **operations lockout subsidy for employers**: targeted support that will pass directly to business owners locked out of trading at Alert Level 4, 3 and 2 due to Government guidance.

Now more than ever, myself and hospitality colleagues are in need of targeted support in order to mitigate rising fixed costs. This is felt exponentially across our industry because:

1. At Alert Level 4 our businesses suffer a 95% drop in revenue
2. At Alert Level 3 this is between 60% - 40% and
3. At Alert Level 2 trading is often heavily restricted by spacing rules and other requirements of trading.

Our industry is still chinning the financial burden of loans and loss of revenue from the previous lockdowns. For context the majority of our industry has been barred from earning any income for 92 days of the last 459 days (20%), and then restricted to earning no more than 50% of our income due to seating, safe distancing & previous single server rules for an additional 76 days, (another 16% roughly). It does not add up in the eyes of industry for our businesses to carry this burden.

The unforeseen nature of this most recent lockdown [your final reference here *e.g resulted in \$2000.00 worth of wasted food stock*] which is just another nail in the coffin for our already struggling business.

I am happy to speak to you, or your officials, or answer any questions.

Ngā mihi nui | Kind regards | Yours sincerely

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