



Franchise Council of Australia Media Release

Small business seeks clarity on 'comprehensive shutdown'

22 March 2020

The NSW and Victorian governments' decisions to impose a 'comprehensive shutdown of non-essential services' over the next 48 hours needs to be explained in more detail, according to the Franchise Council of Australia.

Neither State Governments gave examples of which services would be considered non-essential, but previous Federal Government advice pertaining to "non-essential indoor gatherings" included restaurants, pubs, cafes, cinemas, weddings and funerals.

"It's understood that supermarkets, petrol stations, pharmacies, convenience stores, freight and logistics, and home delivery in Victoria and NSW will remain open. But, what about bakeries, fruit and veg, butchers and similar small businesses?" asks the Franchise Council of Australia.

Franchise Council of Australia CEO Mary Aldred says there are approximately 90,000 franchised small businesses in metropolitan and regional Australia employing nearly 600,000 Australians.

"Allowing the supermarket chains and big businesses to stay open while closing independent traders and family businesses providing essential products and services to their local community would be a travesty" says Ms Aldred.

"A defined list of which businesses can stay open and which should be closed needs to be explained and justified rather than imposing an ill-thought out blanket ban on core contributors to the wellbeing and maintenance of our communities."

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The Franchise Council of Australia is the peak body for the \$184billion franchise business segment, which includes 1,344 networks, with 90,000+ individual franchised outlets, employing 598,500 Australians across the nation.

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