

MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

**DOUBLING CONFERENCE SIZES EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT
FOR LARGER ACCOMMODATION HOTELS**

The move to double conference sizes to 300 people is the first step to providing certainty for larger accommodation hotels in NSW - especially in the Sydney CBD - the head of the state's peak tourism accommodation body said today.

Tourism Accommodation Australia NSW CEO Michael Johnson welcomed the move by the State Government to allow 300 people at conferences ensuring the one per four square metre rule was adhered too and COVID safe plans are in place.

"Our industry has been doing it tough ever since the COVID pandemic hit our shores more than six months ago," Mr Johnson said.

"While the corporate event market will continue to struggle as long as border closures remain, the chance to now have up to 300 people at functions is a boost for our larger hotels which have that capacity.

"We have been pushing hard for this for some time as it provides certainty to companies and organisations looking to book for late this year or early 2021 and lets bigger hotels get some events back on their books.

"This is especially good news in the lead up to Christmas and accommodation providers are hopeful many events previously on hold will now get the green light.

"Hotels have been hard hit and the ability to once again do larger events will drive more revenue and help bring back jobs in the events and conferencing areas in particular."

Media contact: Jason Bartlett, 0433 95 46 57