Your name

Your business

Your business address

Your contact email

## month 2022

Name of MP or Minister

Name of Electorate OR Name of Portfolio

Parliament Buildings

Wellington

first.last@parliament.govt.nz

cc. info@restaurantnz.co.nz

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe / Kia ora / Dear

**Targeted assistance for those hit the hardest by Covid framework 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. As we enter the third year of battling with the pandemic, I, along with others in the industry, find ourselves at crisis point.

I am writing to you to share with you a personal story of the impact of Covid-19 and the impact of being at the Red Level on my business, my employees and my life.

**[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?***

Eg, some of the current key issues for businesses:

* Little recognition of hardship of hospitality by government – lack of targeted support.
* Huge stress around process for dealing with unvaccinated employees
* Stress of managing challenging customer behaviours as a result of vaccination mandate and other Red requirements
* Major information that will have significant impact clarified at the 99th hour.
* Having set 2 week reviews of levels is stressful as each review date approaches
* Hospitality not being identified as a critical workforce and therefore not having access to rapid antigen tests
* Excessive isolation requirements leading to business closure in some cases

I support the call for the Government to consider establishing ***targeted support for the hospitality industry*** that will pass directly to business owners affected by Covid-19.

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. The industry is still experiencing a (significant) drop in revenue.
2. Level Red has been worse than level 3 in the previous framework.
3. Our industry is still chinning the financial burden of loans and loss of revenue from previous lockdowns and level changes over the past 2 years.
4. We have acquired additional expenses due to the traffic light system.

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.

The unforeseen nature of this most recent Omicron outbreak [your final reference here *e.g resulted in XX% loss as a result of reduced foot traffic*] 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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