

MEDIA RELEASE

SCA (VIC) WELCOMES COVID GUIDE FOR STRATA; WORKING FOR EVEN MORE CLARITY

Friday 24 July, 2020: Victoria's peak body for strata community living has welcomed the release of the Victorian Government's [Multi-dwelling Properties with Shared Facilities: Guidelines for COVID-19](#), saying it has provided some much needed clarity to people living in apartments, townhouses and strata communities, but there are still many issues to be 'ironed out'.

The guide – currently applicable only to residents of metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire – outlines best practice within strata complexes for non-essential communal areas (gyms, pools, BBQ areas etc.), essential communal areas (lifts, entry foyers laundry facilities etc.), what to do with deliveries, how to develop a property plan and actions for residents under quarantine.

"SCA Victoria has provided significant input into the formulation of the COVID-19 shared facilities guidelines and we welcome the improved clarity it will bring for strata owners, managers and residents," said SCA (Vic) President, Peter Scott.

"Prior to the release of this guide, the guidelines as they applied to commercial buildings and individuals were being interpreted by people in strata complexes in a multitude of different ways, and the lack of an on-site manager in most strata complexes left that interpretation largely to each individual.

"Just as there were well-defined rules and guidelines for shared facilities usage prior to coronavirus, residents and owners deserve to know where they stand and have a shared point of reference to guide their actions," Mr Scott said.

Although the guidelines provide increased clarity, there are some areas that require more definition and will require working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"DHHS is only considering notifying residents of a strata complex on a case-by-case basis; there is no mandatory reporting of positive cases within a building to other residents at this stage," said Mr Scott.

"We'd like to see more options for strata managers, lot owners and residents to find out information that will help prevent the spread of coronavirus, while still being respectful of everyone's privacy.

"The last thing we want to see is more restrictions applied only to strata residents that could have been avoided, but this document has taken very positive steps away from that happening," said Mr Scott.

One in four Victorians live in strata-titled complexes.

Full report [here](#) or available at the [DHHS website](#).

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About Strata Community Association (SCA) VIC

SCA (Vic) is the peak industry body for Strata Title Management in Victoria. Supporting more than 80% of all owner's corporation management firms, it is the only organisation solely focused upon representing this increasingly significant industry and reaches and represents more than 700 owner's corporation professionals who manage approximately 385,000 lots.

It also represents industry suppliers and owners' corporations, making it the voice of all with an interest in the management of owner's corporations. Members benefit from representation, promotion, establishment of professional practice guidelines and ethical standards, and professional development through education seminars, conferences and regularly publishing bulletins on items of professional interest. Website: <http://vic.strata.community>

Media inquiries

Sharon Lameris
Director Education and Policy, SCA (VIC)
9416 4688

Shaun Brockman
National Policy Manager, SCA
0468 334 277