

Friday 13 March 2020

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Dear Prime Minister,

Fitness Australia would like to thank the government for their response to the COVID-9 pandemic with support to industries and the Australian people.

### About Fitness Australia

Fitness Australia is the peak not-for-profit fitness industry association working to get more Australians more active, more often, for better quality of life.

Our members include 3,500 fitness business providers, almost 20,000 registered personal trainers and instructors, 5,000 fitness students and 200 continuing education providers.

### The Economic Stimulus Package

I understand that your stimulus package includes support for businesses in the form of expanding the instant asset write-off scheme, investment incentives, and cash flow and apprentice and trainee support for employers, however it does not address the critical issue of cash flow support for sole traders.

The lack of direct support for sole traders will place over 10,000 Fitness Australia members at risk of being severely financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is crucial that they're financially supported to remain in business and available to service people in their communities.

As an industry that's purpose is to keep people active and well, it's vital that we are available to continue to support the physical activity of Australians to ensure their physical and mental health.

Keeping Australians healthy

Moderate exercise training causes favourable perturbations in immunity and a reduction in incidence of upper-respiratory illness (URI)<sup>1</sup>.

It's critical now more than ever that we are helping to keep the Australian people healthy and free of infection or disease, including the 3.7 million<sup>2</sup> Australians who are already accessing fitness services.

Recommendation

Revise the Economic Stimulus Package to allow sole traders to access cash flow support as part of the Economic Stimulus Package.

I look forward to hearing from you in regard to this letter via email [barrie.elvish@fitness.org.au](mailto:barrie.elvish@fitness.org.au) or telephone on 0403 466 629.

Yours sincerely,



Barrie Elvish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Fitness Australia

CC:

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP  
Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash  
The Hon. Greg Hunt MP  
Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck

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<sup>1</sup> Nieman, D. C. (2011). Moderate exercise improves immunity and decreases illness rates. American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine.

<sup>2</sup> 2019 IHRSA global report