

## The Way Forward in a COVID Safe Way

This is a guidance note for Rotary International Zone 8 on how to support the RI Board policy on in-person events that commenced on AEST 2 February 2021.

The RI policy can be found here.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/covid-and-our-members>

And FAQs here.

[https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-and-coronavirus-impact-frequently-asked-questions#ri\\_events](https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-and-coronavirus-impact-frequently-asked-questions#ri_events)

The Zone 8 Governors have asked the RI Board to provide a clearance for Zone 8 countries that have a public health COVID strategy of elimination of the virus. That will be considered by the RI Board at its March meeting.

In order to fully support RI, but also to ensure that all attendees to in-person events and meetings can continue where the public health law permits in-person meetings, we are taking the follow further steps:

1. **reliance on jurisdictional law** – organisers of Zone 8 events and meeting must ensure all attendees are fully informed and monitored through our QR code public health apps. Each attendee must be advised that Rotary in Zone 8 relies solely on compliance in a manner consistent with public health controls. To ensure full information is provided any event or meeting should formally adopt the District or event specific Health, Safety and Risk Management Plan (HSRMP) which includes, where appropriate, a COVID Safe Plan. The event HSRMP must contain a section on informing attendees setting out the use of District approved confirmation by the attendees. Attendees must be informed that in attending they **and** Rotary in Zone 8 are relying on the public health laws and requirements. Appropriate disclaimers and exclusions from the standard Rotary International policy as set out by the RI Board must be included.
2. **adoption of the RI Crisis Management Plan** – each event and the HSRMP used for the event must be scheduled with the District as complying with the RI Crisis Management plan as adopted by each District. This is to ensure that, should a situation such as a lockdown occur, the public position of Rotary in Zone 8 is managed as required by RI.
3. **funding** – as part of the RI Board direction to District Governors that de-funded travel and other usual RI expense claims all Rotary Zone 8 events and meetings must be organised on the basis that those claims to RI (whether through District or otherwise) will **not** be re-imbursed by RI **unless the RI Board**, at its March meeting, agrees to restore funding back to the Districts. That request has been made on the basis of the Rotary Zone 8 application for acknowledgement of our situation and the measures we are taking to ensure that Rotary is protected by exclusive adoption of the public health law and controls through the HSRMP and RI District Crisis Management Plan.

For the District Governors of Zone 8  
Sunday 7 February 2021