

The NSW Government must increase the 50-person cap on attendance at weddings to 1 person per 4 square metres to prevent a collapse of an already exhausted industry.

As per the NSW Government's Roadmap, stay-at-home orders will be lifted for adults who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. If events such as birthday parties or corporate functions can be held for those who are fully vaccinated at 1 person per 4 square metres, then there is no logical reason as to why the same cannot apply for weddings if all of those who are attending are fully vaccinated and have tested negative for COVID-19.

The wedding industry is fully prepared to comply with these rules and is open to working with the NSW Government to make a 1 person per 4 square metres rule viable through QR codes, vaccinations and exploring the possible use of technologies such as Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT).

1. Consistency Across Hospitality

As previously mentioned, other events have been given the green-light to go ahead subject to the 4 square metres rule. For some function venues this will mean that they can host a 300-person corporate event in the afternoon but then will be forced to cut that down to 50 people in the evening for a wedding reception. This is a highly impractical scenario.

NSW Health fears that weddings constitute a greater risk than other events are also unfounded if the venue fully complies with the new NSW Government rules for entry of a premises. If the condition of entry to any venue under the new rules are that adults must be fully vaccinated and COVID-negative, then it stands to reason that the same amount of risk would apply to a wedding as it would a birthday party in a pub or club.

2. Postponement and Cancellation

Wedding receptions typically occur on weekends, meaning that most venues can only fit in two a week.

A 50-person attendance cap on such an important event in people's lives will simply lead to mass cancellations and postponements until the cap is extended. This will in turn exacerbate existing financial hardships for venue owners.

3. Vaccine Incentives

Weddings are a joyous and momentous occasion. If the only way to attend such an important event is to be fully vaccinated, it can therefore be expected that friends and family of the bride and groom will seek to do so. Ways to encourage Australians to get vaccinated should be adopted by the NSW Government as part of their strategy to reopen.



