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REIA urges Victorian Government to safely restart Australia's second biggest property market

The REIA joins with the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) in calling on the Victorian Government to reintroduce contactless activities in the real estate industry, such as one-on-one inspections.

We also request property access be provided to professionals, for the purposes of generating digital marketing materials, such as photos and videos, all in line with social distancing requirements.

REIA president Adrian Kelly has written to Premier Daniel Andrews outlining the importance of keeping the real estate industry operating, albeit with appropriate safeguards.

"A healthy property sector has been a crucial support to economic growth in Australia and can be expected to play a vital role in Australia's recovery in these unprecedented times," said Mr Kelly.

"Victoria is critical to this as our second biggest residential property market with 30% of Australian capital cities and 20% of Australia's rental market and nearly 80,000 dwelling sales annually.

"Across Australia the agency industry has been diligent in upholding public health protocols and social distancing since March 2020.

"We are committed to working with all Australian governments to manage the risks presented by the global pandemic and have been praised in many jurisdictions for our collaborative approach.

"We understand that other sectors are able to conduct similar activities and believe the real estate industry should be provided a level playing field.

"It is nonsensical that as an estate agent I will be permitted to take my pet pooch to the beauty parlour before I can show a prospective tenant or purchaser through a property in order for them to have a roof over their head.

"It is our national experience that these activities have been undertaken safely and have mitigated risks of community transmission."

Mr Kelly said allowing people to sell their homes to avoid financial suffering, will not only provide economic relief to individuals but the country as a whole, and a critical factor in the payment of government stamp duty.

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The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia.

For further information or to speak with REIA President Adrian Kelly please contact Samantha Elley via media@reia.com.au or 0413 986 068.