

Thursday 22 April, 2021

## Hurstville businesses get tick of approval for COVID-safe practices

Hurstville businesses have proven their commitment to keeping the community safe by complying with COVID-safe practices.

A multiple agency COVID-19 business education and compliance campaign was recently completed in the area to support local businesses to comply with COVID safety requirements.

The program came about in response to a case of COVID-19 in a hotel quarantine worker who had visited several Hurstville locations during his infectious period.

Professor Mark Ferson, Director of the Public Health Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said the businesses involved showed a strong understanding of the role they have to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

“I am really pleased that all of the 108 businesses audited had the QR code in place or a manual system for patrons without mobile telephones to record their details,” Professor Ferson said.

The types of businesses chosen to participate in the program were gyms, restaurants and cafes, beauticians and hairdressers. An important aspect of the program was to identify those businesses whose owners required additional language support to understand and comply with the current COVID rules.

Each business was assessed by environmental health officers from the Public Health Unit or by personnel from Service NSW. Areas assessed included record keeping, premises capacity and availability of hand sanitiser.

Tijana Miles, Manager of Anytime Fitness at Hurstville said complying with COVID-safe health directives ensured members were protected.

“The health and safety of our members is our number one priority, so all measures implemented are based around this. We know that having a QR code is really important for contact tracing, and we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep our members happy and healthy,” said Miss Miles.

Professor Ferson said: “Whilst many requirements have been relaxed, as a community we will need to maintain attention to record keeping so our contact tracers can quickly find contacts when new cases occur.”

“We also want to thank the team from Service NSW for their work on this.”

Businesses are strongly advised to keep up-to-date on requirements by regularly checking the NSW Government website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe> which has information translated into languages other than English.