



Media Release: Victorian Hospitals COVID-19 Restrictions

July 23, 2020

Following comments issued today by Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos, outlining changes to maternity visiting restrictions in Victoria, COPE received an overwhelming response - a mix of distress, anger, grief and anxiety.

The team at COPE heard the community's frustration and heartbreak at these changes and the impact it would have on the emotional and mental health of expectant mums and dads.

Like many organisations, COPE acknowledges that men already feel excluded as part of the provision of maternity and postnatal care and this only compounds it.

As a result of the overwhelming outpouring from our community, we consulted with our colleagues at Royal Aust & NZ College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) who have issued a statement this evening.

While it acknowledges the difficult implications of the coronavirus, it also emphasises the impact these rules will have on women, their partners and families, placing them at increased risk of emotional and mental health distress.

We remain committed to supporting and advocating for the needs and experiences of expectant parents at this vulnerable, unpredictable and uncertain time.

We thank the COPE community for working with us to highlight the significant emotional and mental impact of these restrictions and advocating the need for change.

This has resulted in the government being asked to urgently review these restrictions.

We hear you. We stand with you. We support you.

You can read the full statement from RANZCOG here:

<https://ranzcof.edu.au/news/statement-on-victoria-hospital-visitor-restriction>

For more information about coping during COVID visit the [COPE website](#).

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