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## Message from AusBG Chairperson, Kate Midttun May 2020

Dear Members,

I think we can all agree, it's been a big year for Australian's and Australian businesses. Bushfires, floods, and coronavirus have seen us all operating far from business as usual, all of us digging deep and moving forward with resilience. This Ramadan and Eid have been remarkably different and we've missed seeing our Australian Alumni at AusBG and Embassy annual Iftar, but we look forward to gathering again in the not too distant future.

At Australian Business Group, amongst the webinars, we've been busy representing our members and ensuring our collective voice is heard. This month, our chairperson Kate Midttun has met with Abu Dhabi Investment Office, Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development and Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry alongside AmCham, British Business Group and Canadian Business Council to discuss the matters most critical for our member businesses. The discussions have been encouraging, with many of the points being immediately taken forward and actioned. Points for discussion have been around access to funding, removal of the requirement for bid bonds and performance bonds, the possibility of further stimulus packages and more reforms. The conversations are ongoing and will extend to other departments and ministries to ensure impact and support for Australian Business Group members. We invite you to reach out to us to discuss what government measures would provide meaningful support to your business at this time.

In addition, we have conducted a survey to get a snapshot of how Australian businesses are responding to the crisis. This is in part to provide constructive information for discussions with the UAE government entities, but also to understand how we can support your business. The results demonstrate that most businesses have already been impacted significantly and members are concerned about what is on the horizon for the rest of the year. AusBG is here to support and will tailor a programme of events to make sure our members have the tools and information they need. We will release a report later this week with the results so that you can have a better picture of where your business stands in the current situation.

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This week, BIF have closed the committee voting for the change of dates for Expo 2020 Dubai and have confirmed the event will now run from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, the name will remain as Expo 2020 Dubai despite the change of year. Previously having advised that the number of votes had passed the requisite number for the date to move, voting closed on 29<sup>th</sup> May and the date has now been confirmed. Given the change in trading patterns and turbulent economic and political environment at the moment, Expo 2020 Dubai will be a welcomed opportunity for businesses in the Middle East.

As we move through these challenging times together, we invite our members to reach out for support and discuss how the Australian Business Group can help you. Over the past weeks we have offered support through promoting members through our social media channels, connecting members to potential business prospects, and providing advice and introductions for GCC deals. If we can be of any support to you or your business, please don't hesitate to reach out to Annissa Taylor or one of our board members, we are glad to be here to support you.

Stay safe and well,

The Australian Business Group Team

## GLOBAL VICTORIA UPDATE



### [EdTech & Innovation Expo](#)

In May 2020 Global Victoria and EduGrowth, Australia's education technology & innovation industry hub, jointly hosted the inaugural Victorian Global EdTech & Innovation Expo, a virtual conference showcasing Victoria's EdTech ecosystem to an international audience. [For the details click here](#)



### [Covid-19 Restrictions Update](#)

The Victorian Government is further loosening restrictions on public pools, galleries, libraries, zoos, cinemas and other cultural institutions. [For more information on updates click here](#)

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STARS IN THE NEWS

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### MILK CHOCOLATE

Hear the latest from AusBG 50 Corporate Member, [Milk Chocolate](#) as their Chief Economist [Kevin Hoang](#), shares his insights from their recent article "WHY WE THINK THE PROPERTY MARKET WON'T COLLAPSE."

[To read the full article click here.](#)



## DR Care Solutions

### DR CARE SOLUTIONS

Danielle Robertson & her team offers comprehensive knowledge & experience, having worked in the care sector for more than 3 decades. Danielle's latest article [Covid-19 / Caring for isolated parents](#)" provides valuable advice for expats during uncertain times.

## Upcoming Webinars



**Tuesday 2 June 2020 3pm-3.45pm :**

### **E-Commerce & Customer Engagement Trends: TRYANO**

This webinar will address the impact of Covid-19 has had on Tryano: tacking how the store & group, in general, has managed the Covid19 situation and their plans post Covid-19. [Click here to register](#)



**TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2020, 12.30pm – 1.30pm**

### **Evolution of the Construction Industry in the Region**

The construction industry is one of the critically challenged industries impacted by the current economic crises. Join AusBG Board Member Sameh Masry alongside industry experts as they discuss the challenges, key opportunities to sustain, and develop improvements across various aspects of related services and businesses.

[Click here to register.](#)

*Fireside chat with Cameron Brownjohn*  
**CEO Federation Asset Management & Chairman of Special Olympics Australia**  
 Hosted by Elicia Saffron MBA, GAICD  
 Managing Director Maysaffron




- What is social and economic needs based investing?
- Renewable Energy - why is it a good investment?
- Social Housing and Education Real Estate - how do you digitise assets and capture compression opportunities?
- Social and economic need: a large equity companies, Bendigo, George Health
- How Federation and ESG companies are outperforming during a crisis

Live interview  
 Monday June 1st 10am Dubai  
 Register: [www.ausbg.net](http://www.ausbg.net)



**UAE's Largest Health Care Network SEHA ( Abu Dhabi Health Services)**

Join the Abu Dhabi Business Groups as the Bahraini Business Council hosts a webinar with SEHA to provide an insiders view on Covid-19.

Sunday 7 June 2020 , 1pm – 2pm  
 Pre-registration essential: [ausbg.net](http://ausbg.net)



**Monday 1 June 2020 10am – 11am :**

**ESG Investing in Australia for the Future**

How renewable energy, social housing, education investments can do good whilst generating returns and how you can get exposure. A Fireside chat with Cameron Brownjohn, CEO Federation Asset Management & Chairman of Special Olympics Australia. [Click here to register.](#)

**Sunday 7 June 2020, 1pm – 2pm:**

**Covid-19: An Insiders View from the UAE's Largest Healthcare Network.**

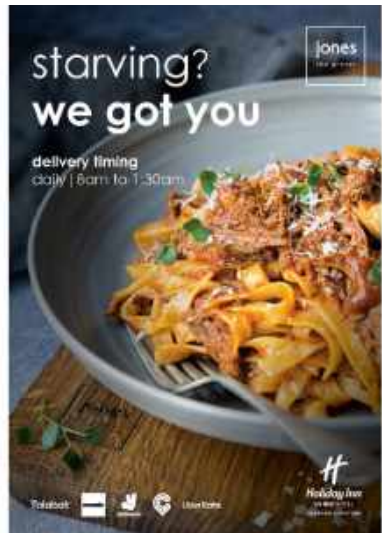
This webinar will discuss the start of Covid-19 in the UAE, the UAE's & Healthcare Centre's response to the pandemic as well as detailed information for companies & GM's regarding health care risks for employees, testing, positive employees and how to plan for return to the office. [To register for this webinar click here.](#)

**AUSSIE MENUES**



**MEAT AND LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA**

MLA, True Aussie Beef, and Lamb in partnership with Time Out Dubai have teamed up with three of Dubai's Top Steak Chefs to demonstrate to us all how to cook the best Australian steak at home. [Click here for the video and instructions.](#)



**JONES THE GROCER, HOLIDAY INN**

AusBG Corporate Members, Jones the Grocer at the Holiday Inn have you covered.

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## Contribute

Would you like the opportunity to contribute business related articles to the newsletter? We welcome submissions from AusBG Members. Get in touch [now](#).

***Interested in becoming a member of AusBG?***

***Click [here](#) for more information.***



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