

**MEDIA STATEMENT****25 March 2019****MISS MAUD LOOKS AHEAD TO PROTECT CUSTOMERS, STAFF AND SUPPLIERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S BEST KNOWN HOSPITALITY GROUP**

With progressive measures continuing to be put in place by the Australian Federal Government to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Western Australian hospitality leader Maud Edmiston, namesake and CEO of the Miss Maud group of coffee houses located in the Perth CBD and metropolitan Perth has announced that for the protection of customers, staff, suppliers and those people they may come into contact with, all Miss Maud stores and catering would be temporarily closed from tomorrow Thursday 26 March.

Ms Edmiston acknowledged what many know, that COVID-19 is having a major impact on families, businesses and livelihoods in the state, as well as nationally and globally and indicated that her company would continue to monitor the status of current Government recommendations and requirements and update its social media pages as it navigates the crisis.

She indicated that for now the company's utmost concern was the safety of its family of customers, suppliers and her marvellous staff, with Foodbank WA partnering with Miss Maud to ensure any food stock from Miss Maud stores is used in Foodbank's community programmes.

"We have been serving our wonderful customers for 49 years and the wellbeing of all those customers who frequent our stores and purchase on-line, our staff and our suppliers has always guided us," she said.

Maud Edmiston, who is known within the hospitality industry for her unique relationships with the community over several generations and a history of long term employees said that while it may feel far from business as usual, she and many staff would continue to operate remotely during the temporary close, problem solving together, looking ahead and using the down time as an investment in the future.

"It is the experience, care and consideration that we offer each other that is at the heart of our Miss Maud operation— and indeed, the WA community," she said. "This will not change and will be strengthened by our new knowledge as the hospitality industry emerges from this situation to once again become a thriving industry."

"Meanwhile we will be taking care of our team with access to support and community updates whenever we can, staying flexible and positive, and working on ways to enhance and refine the Miss Maud experience for our wonderful customers who have continued to provide us with friendship and loyalty since we opened our first coffee house in 1971."

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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