

## ACU expert calls for national approach to COVID-19 quarantine

With concern growing over more infectious strains of COVID-19 in Australia and breaches in hotel quarantine, ACU expert Roger Lord says a national approach to hotel quarantine must be considered.

Australian state and territories have come up with a patchwork of systems to respond to COVID-19 incursions, most of which are based around keeping overseas travellers confined in hotel rooms in capital cities.

But keeping potential cases close to densely-populated areas may not be the best approach, according to Dr Roger Lord, a senior medical sciences lecturer at ACU.

“Hotels are not designed to effectively isolate those being quarantined from hotel staff and subsequent interaction of staff with the wider community,” he said.

“Quarantine needs to be undertaken away from large populations found in our capital cities and some sensible suggestions have been proposed such as regional city locations.”

The Federal Government has indicated the scale needed to deliver an effective alternative is problematic, but the current system is expensive too, he says.

“Each time a hotel quarantine breach occurs in a capital city the subsequent requirement for tracing, extensive COVID-19 testing and potential lockdown is both disruptive and costly.”

Dr Lord, who is also a specialist advisor in transplantation, infectious disease and clinical biochemistry to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, is available for interview.

### Media contact

Elisabeth Tarica [elisabeth.tarica@acu.edu.au](mailto:elisabeth.tarica@acu.edu.au) or 0418 756 941