

# Headline Measures Fact Sheet

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Factsheet as at 5th May, 2020

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## 1. National Cabinet announcements

**5 May 2020** – National Cabinet encouraged Australians to download the COVIDSafe app to ensure that we can protect Australians and reset baseline restrictions. Nearly 5 million Australians have already downloaded the COVIDSafe app.

National Cabinet welcomed New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern for a part of today's meeting to discuss our countries' approaches to combating the virus. We agreed to start work on a trans-Tasman COVID-19 safe travel zone, easing travel restrictions between Australia and New Zealand.

### **Establishing a COVID-19 Safe Australia - returning to work safely and confidently**

The Chair of the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission, Mr Neville Power, briefed National Cabinet on the importance of a proactive and consistent approach to supporting businesses and workers to safely return to work - drawing on the National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles that had been agreed by National Cabinet on 24 April 2020.

National Cabinet agreed that Safework Australia would be the single source of information, which will allow businesses to plan with confidence and consistency. A toolkit is being developed for businesses to use, to help them be work ready in a COVID-19 safe environment. National Cabinet encouraged businesses to be prepared for reopening, to protect their workers and protect their business.

### **Establishing a COVID-19 Safe Australia - removing baseline restrictions**

National Cabinet agreed to establish a three step framework to gradually remove baseline restrictions to enable Australians to live in a COVID-19 safe economy. Details will be determined by National Cabinet on Friday 8 May 2020.

Individual states and territories will determine the timeframe for graduating between steps and individual restrictions to remove. This reflects the fact that states and territories are at different stages of the pandemic response, with 6 of 8 states and territories now recording multiple zero case days.

National Cabinet noted that the Northern Territory has announced that by 5 June 2020, it will be able to remove many restrictions, while maintaining social distancing, hygiene and travel restrictions.

It is National Cabinet's aim to have a sustainable COVID-19 safe economy in July 2020. This will be subject to strong epidemiology results, testing, tracing and local surge health response capacity. National Cabinet noted that some health measures will need to be in place for a considerable period of time including social distancing, strong hygiene and international travel restrictions. Some jurisdictions may choose to maintain interstate travel restrictions.

*National Cabinet agreed to meet again on Friday 8 May 2020.*

**1 May 2020** – National Cabinet encouraged Australians to download the COVIDSafe app to ensure that we can protect Australians and reset baseline restrictions. National Cabinet agreed to bring forward the review of the first phase of removing baseline restrictions on Friday 8 May 2020, including an assessment of achievement against precedent conditions.

National Cabinet endorsed the draft 'Code of Conduct on Pandemic Procedures' for residential aged care.

National Cabinet considered and endorsed 'National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities' developed by the AHPPC in consultation with sporting bodies across Australia. It was noted that evidence to date suggests that even with similar mitigation steps, outdoor activities are a lower risk setting for COVID-19 transmission. The staged return will commence an initial phase of small group (<10) activities in a non-contact fashion, prior to moving on to a subsequent phase of large group (>10) activities including full contact training and competition in sport.

National Cabinet agreed that the 'Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment' developed by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) provides a guide to the staged resumption of sport and recreation in Australia.

**26 April 2020** – The Australian Government launched the new voluntary coronavirus app, COVIDSafe. The app is an important public health initiative that will help keep individuals, families and the community safe from further spread of coronavirus through early notification of possible exposure.

**24 April 2020** – As a next step in Australia's response, National Cabinet agreed to expand testing criteria across Australia to all people with mild symptoms of COVID-19. This will ensure cases are quickly identified.

Further work to plan for enhanced monitoring, testing and tracing is underway through the development of the Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan and an Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan sitting under the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

National Cabinet received an updated briefing on new modelling with the Reff now below 1.0 across all states and territories, except for Tasmania. Australia's case detection rate is 93 per cent and projections of case numbers are below lower bound modelled estimates.

### **National Safe Workplace Principles**

National Cabinet agreed to develop nationally-consistent, industry-specific work health and safety guidance on COVID-19, accessible via a central hub provided by Safe Work Australia.

The guidance will be developed and endorsed through Safe Work Australia, working with its members (the Commonwealth, states and territories, employer groups, and unions). The guidance will be housed on a revamped Safe Work Australia website.

Australian workplaces will be able to use this central hub of WHS guidance and tools to help manage health and safety risks posed by COVID-19.

To support the development of nationally-consistent guidance, National Cabinet agreed to the 'National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles'.

National Cabinet agreed to meet again on 1 May 2020.

**21 April 2020** – The Chief Medical Officer Dr Brendan Murphy provided an update on the measures underway, the latest data and medical advice in relation to COVID-19.

For COVID-19 suppression strategies to be effective, Reff (the number of people a single case infects on average) needs to be less than 1.0. The results continue to look very encouraging.

To continue to suppress COVID-19, National Cabinet has commenced further work on Australia's public health response including enhanced testing, tracing and local health response capabilities. This work will feed into National Cabinet's review of baseline restrictions by 14 May 2020.

National Cabinet was briefed on the new app currently under development to support state and territory health authorities to notify close contacts of a person diagnosed with COVID-19. National Cabinet provided its in-principle support for the app. The Government will provide further information on the app closer to its release.

### **National Cabinet agreed to meet again on Friday 24 April 2020.**

**16 April 2020** – National Cabinet advised that the next phase of modelling has begun; ‘nowcasting’. Nowcasting is the concept of using data from the previous 14 days to more accurately understand the present state of the epidemic, given the known time from infection to illness and imperfect case finding. The [Modelling the current impact of COVID-19 in Australia](#) presentation made by the Chief Medical Officer was publicly released.

National Cabinet agreed to a framework for future actions to plan the pathway for next steps in responding to the virus and conditions for relaxation.

National Cabinet agreed that any changes to the current measures must be underpinned by a strengthened public health response for case and contact identification and management, continued surge capacity in the healthcare system and a clear communications plan.

National Cabinet agreed to baseline measures remaining in place for the next four weeks, with individual states and territories who have put in place extended measures beyond baselines, to consider these measures based on up to date data and circumstances.

National Cabinet agreed to AHPPC advice on seven precedent conditions to any further relaxations, with work to continue over the next four weeks.

1. Situational awareness of current measures and their impact – sophisticated surveillance of disease incidence and spread, health system status, public health capabilities, stocks of material and community adherence to public health measures.
2. Finalised surveillance plan – enabled with adequate resources.
3. A better understanding of the implications of the modelling and a better understanding of the characteristics and transmission of the virus.
4. Complete maturation of public health capacity – including capacity to conduct testing more broadly; and public health workforce and technology for contact tracing, data collection and analysis.
5. Advanced technology for contact tracing – the role of a mobile phone application should be wholly explored, as it could be a valuable tool in contact tracing if numbers increase and the application is widely taken up. This would act to complement and augment our current public health contact tracing strategies and enable scale-back strategies.
6. Assurance of adequate health system capacity – should control measures fail, there must be assurance that the system will cope with any surge in cases, including the requirement for hospital beds, ventilators, PPE and ongoing workforce training.
7. Assurance of supply lines for – PPE, pathology consumables, ventilators.

**9 April 2020** - National Cabinet noted that Australia was now in the suppression phase of the response, which will last for some time. Restrictions will be reviewed regularly and planning for the medium to long-term has begun. National Cabinet agreed to meet again on Thursday 16 April 2020.

**30 March 2020** – Following agreement of a national baseline for social distancing and business restrictions, National Cabinet agreed to adopt advice from AHPPC that:

- Supports the long-term nationwide maintenance and enforcement of the restrictions currently in place;

- Local circumstances may prompt states and territories to introduce additional measures for a period to further control community transmission; and
- Local decisions should be on the advice of the local Chief Health Officer informed by the local epidemiology at the time.

The factors influencing such a recommendation include consideration of:

- The overall number of new cases, and particularly the rate of change
- The proportion of locally acquired cases without known links to other cases
- Multiple outbreaks in vulnerable populations, including remote Indigenous communities and residential aged care facilities
- Capacity of laboratory testing and the health system to respond to current and predicted load.

**29 March 2020** – National Cabinet agreed to further restrictions on people movement, including:

- Public gatherings reduced to two persons in public spaces and other areas of gathering. States and territories will determine whether they proceed to make this an enforceable limit in the same way that the 10 person limit is already being enforced.
- People are to stay home except for:
  - A) To go and buy essential needs. So food, going to the pharmacy, essential supplies.
  - B) Medical appointments, to access healthcare or to provide care to someone you are responsible for.
  - C) Exercise.
  - D) To go to work or school if it can't be done remotely.
- People aged 70 and over should stay at home and self-isolate for their own protection to the maximum extent practicable. These arrangements should also apply to those with chronic illness over 60 and Indigenous persons over the age of 50.

If the outbreak continues to worsen, States and Territories will implement further measures specific to their own region, including closing additional categories of venues. These closures will be risk-based and targeted at non-essential activities.

**27 March 2020** - Today, National Cabinet decided to take further actions targeting overseas Australians returning home.

In addition to the existing arrival declaration card, by no later than midnight tomorrow (11:59pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March) states and territories will be quarantining all arrivals through airports, in hotels and other accommodation facilities for the two weeks of their mandatory self-isolation before they are able to return to their home.

**24 March 2020** - National Cabinet noted that there has been a significant growth in the number of cases in Australia, with a significant number of Australians returning from overseas and small community outbreaks associated with returned travellers.

Further social distancing measures were announced along a list of additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020.

We will be living with this virus *for at least six months*, so social distancing measures to slow this virus down must be sustainable for at least that long to protect Australian lives, allow Australia to keep functioning and keep Australians in jobs.

## 2. Restriction Easing

### *Federal Statements*

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National Cabinet noted that the Northern Territory has announced that by 5 June 2020, it will be able to remove many restrictions, while maintaining social distancing, hygiene and travel restrictions.

It is National Cabinet's aim to have a sustainable COVID-19 safe economy in July 2020. This will be subject to strong epidemiology results, testing, tracing and local surge health response capacity. National Cabinet noted that some health measures will need to be in place for a considerable period of time including social distancing, strong hygiene and international travel restrictions. Some jurisdictions may choose to maintain interstate travel restrictions.

#### **National Cabinet agreed to meet again on Friday 8 May 2020.**

**1 May 2020** – National Cabinet endorsed medical advice from the AHPPC which sets out the key metrics to support decision making on the relaxation of restriction measures, find it [here](#).

The AHPPC's Pandemic Intelligence Plan, Precedent Condition report and the Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan also recommended public health and surveillance measures to achieve continued suppression of COVID-19.

Initial actions and measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia have been largely successful at slowing the growth of cases domestically and ensuring the national health care system has the ability to cope with cases, and surge when required.

For COVID-19 suppression strategies to be effective, Reff (the number of people a single case infects on average) needs to be less than 1.0. The Reff continues to be below 1.0 in all jurisdictions with sufficient local transmission.

In particular National Cabinet noted the significant progress against precedent conditions, ahead of any consideration of relaxation of baseline measures.

AHPPC advice is that of 15 precedent conditions needed to be in place to consider relaxing restrictions, Australia is currently on track to meet 11 conditions. Governments will expediate four conditions - surveillance (testing), state and territory surveillance plans and resources, use of COVIDSafe App and stocks of personal protective equipment - gowns and goggles. Further details of preconditions are in Attachment C.

### State & Territory Statements

New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>28 April-</b> There is no limit for how far you can travel within NSW so long as you respect the rules and the reason is consistent with one of the four categories for leaving home.</li> <li>• <b>25 April-</b> The NSW Premier announced that indoor gathering requirements will be eased to allow a maximum of 2 adults to visit other households for social or care reasons, with children permitted to come along.</li> </ul>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>26 April-</b> The QLD Government has announced some relief to the stay at home COVID-19 restrictions. From May 1, residents can go for a drive, ride a motorbike, jet ski or boat for pleasure, have a picnic, visit national parks and shop for non-essential items. However, this is subject to the following conditions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social distancing and hygiene are maintained</li> <li>○ You have to stay within 50km from your home</li> <li>○ Outings are limited to members of the same household or an individual and one friend.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 May 2020-</b> The SA Premier has announced that they will issue a timetable for easing restrictions.</li> </ul>
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>29 May 2020-</b> WA's hospitality industry is being prepared for a return to business with the launch of a mandatory COVID-19 hygiene training program to protect the public and venue staff. State Government program to be delivered by the Australian Hotels Association (WA).</li> <li>• <b>26 April –</b> The WA Government has announced easing to COVID-19 restrictions, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indoor and outdoor gatherings for up to 10 people will be allowed including weddings, outdoor personal training (no shared equipment), non-contact recreational activities such as boating, fishing, camping and hiking and open house or display village inspection.</li> <li>○ All public playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment will remain closed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 May 2020-</b> Residents can now leave their houses for non-essential shopping purposes.</li> <li>• Restrictions on gatherings inside the family home will be relaxed to allow families to visit each other with two adults plus children able to visit outside of those who ordinarily live in a property.</li> </ul>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>30 April 2020-</b> The NT Chief Minister has laid out the Territory's <a href="#">Roadmap</a> to the New Normal, detailing the pathway to removing restrictions. Stage 1 adjustments will commence from Friday 1 May. This includes adjustments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Personal gatherings including outdoor weddings and funerals</li> <li>○ Playgrounds, parks and campgrounds outside biosecurity areas</li> <li>○ Public swimming pools, lagoons and water parks</li> <li>○ Outdoor sports where physical distancing can be maintained</li> <li>○ Open houses inspections and auctions</li> <li>○ Gatherings in homes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



### 3. Social Distancing Measures – Stage 3 Restrictions

**30 March 2020** – Following agreement of a national baseline for social distancing and business restrictions, National Cabinet agreed to adopt advice from AHPPC that:

- Supports the long-term nationwide maintenance and enforcement of the restrictions currently in place;
- Local circumstances may prompt states and territories to introduce additional measures for a period to further control community transmission; and
- Local decisions should be on the advice of the local Chief Health Officer informed by the local epidemiology at the time.

The factors influencing such a recommendation include consideration of:

- The overall number of new cases, and particularly the rate of change
- The proportion of locally acquired cases without known links to other cases
- Multiple outbreaks in vulnerable populations, including remote Indigenous communities and residential aged care facilities
- Capacity of laboratory testing and the health system to respond to current and predicted load.

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  - E) To go and buy essential needs. So food, going to the pharmacy, essential supplies.
  - F) Medical appointments, to access healthcare or to provide care to someone you are responsible for.
  - G) Exercise.
  - H) To go to work or school if it can't be done remotely.
- People aged 70 and over should stay at home and self-isolate for their own protection to the maximum extent practicable. These arrangements should also apply to those with chronic illness over 60 and Indigenous persons over the age of 50.

If the outbreak continues to worsen, States and Territories will implement further measures specific to their own region, including closing additional categories of venues. These closures will be risk-based and targeted at non-essential activities.

**27 March 2020** - Today, National Cabinet decided to take further actions targeting overseas Australians returning home.

In addition to the existing arrival declaration card, by no later than midnight tomorrow (11:59pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March) states and territories will be quarantining all arrivals through airports, in hotels and other accommodation facilities for the two weeks of their mandatory self-isolation before they are able to return to their home.

**24 March 2020** - National Cabinet noted that there has been a significant growth in the number of cases in Australia, with a significant number of Australians returning from overseas and small community outbreaks associated with returned travellers.

Further social distancing measures were announced along a list of additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020.

We will be living with this virus *for at least six months*, so social distancing measures to slow this virus down must be sustainable for at least that long to protect Australian lives, allow Australia to keep functioning and keep Australians in jobs.

## *Business Closures Stage 2 – Federal statement*

***Additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020***

<b>Business, premise or place no longer able to operate</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>
<b><i>Food and drink</i></b>	
Cafes	Takeaway service and home delivery Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless, workplace canteens can provide takeaway Roadhouses, dedicated truck stop facilities and truck driver lounges will remain open given they can adhere to social distancing and hygiene measures. These facilities are strictly limited to heavy vehicle drivers.
Food courts	Delivery and takeaway can remain operational
<b><i>Retail</i></b>	
Auction houses	
Real estate auctions and open house inspections	Private appointments for inspection
Outdoor and indoor markets will be a decision for each state and territory	Food markets will continue to operate in all states and territories
<b><i>Beauty and personal care services</i></b>	
Hairdressers and barber shops	1 person per 4 square metre rule applies in the premises
Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours	
Spas and massage parlours	
<b><i>Entertainment venues</i></b>	
Cinemas, nightclubs	
Casinos, gaming or gambling venues	
Strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues	
Concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums	Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed
Amusement parks and arcades	

Play centres (indoor and outdoor)	
<b>Leisure and recreation</b>	
Community and recreation centres	Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.
Health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre and spin facilities, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres	
Boot camps, personal training operating outside and inside	For inside and outside events, limited to groups of no more than 2 people (including the trainer).
Social sporting-based activities	
Swimming pools	
<b>Residential facilities</b>	
Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses will be a decision for each state and territory	Excluding permanent residents and workers.
<b>Outdoor recreation</b>	
Caravan and camping parks will be a decision for each state and territory	Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.
<b>Non-residential institutions</b>	
Galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites	
Libraries, community centres, and youth centres	
Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools)	
Community facilities (such as community halls, clubs, RSLs, PCYCs);	
Places of worship, weddings and funerals	Churches and other places of worship, will be considered places of work so that services can be live streamed to the community. Services may be conducted and live streamed providing only essential staff are present, the venue/facility remains closed to the public, and social distancing principles are adhered to. Weddings with a maximum attendance of no more than 5 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.

	Funerals attended by a maximum of no more than 10 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.
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## *Business Closures Stage 1 – Federal statement*

**22 March 2020** - National Cabinet agreed to move to more widespread restrictions on social gatherings.

Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed to implement, through state and territory laws (Public Health Directions), new Stage 1 restrictions on social gatherings, **to be reviewed on a monthly basis**. Australians should expect these measures to be in place for at least 6 months.

**The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020:**

- Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
- Gyms and indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
- Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies).

Other facilities are not restricted at this time and should follow the social distancing and health advice. The Government is considering what further restrictions that may be necessary, and what is an essential service, and will provide further advice at that time.

These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.

## *Business Closures - State and Territory*

New South Wales	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• micro-breweries or small distilleries</li> <li>• information and education facilities (<i>Information and education facility means a building or place used for providing information or education to visitors, and the exhibition or display of items, and includes an art gallery, museum, library, visitor information centre and the like</i>).</li> <li>• Nothing in this clause prevents the use of premises- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, for example a food bank or a service providing for the needs of homeless persons, or</li> <li>(b) as an early education and care facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020</a></p> <p><b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
Victoria	<p>A full list of Stage 1 and 2 restrictions will be available at <a href="https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au">coronavirus.vic.gov.au</a>. Businesses seeking advice about whether they are affected can contact the Business Victoria Hotline on 13 22 15.</p>

	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal facilities</li> <li>• Open retail facilities (with cleaning, density and signage requirements).</li> <li>• Amusement park, casino, gambling business</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Direction - Restricted activity (PDF)</a> (replaces Non-Essential Activity Directions (No 2) from 25 March)</p> <p>Must be read in conjunction with the <a href="#">Stay at Home Orders</a>.</p> <p><b>Please check specific exemptions</b></p>
Queensland	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme Parks</li> <li>• Licensed armourers and licensed dealers as defined under the Weapons Act 1990</li> <li>• Zoos and wildlife centres</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (No.4)</a></p> <p><b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
South Australia	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor sport facilities and other racetracks</li> <li>• Retail gambling outlets</li> <li>• Amusements parks and arcades</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Emergency Management Directions on non-essential business and other activities (PDF 1MB)</a>.</p> <p><b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
Western Australia	<p><i>In line with federal statement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2005 (WA):</li> <li>• <a href="#">Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment Directions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment Directions (2)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment Directions (No 3)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Perth Zoo Closure Directions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Closure of Gun Shops (No 2)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Preventative Restriction of Activities Directions (No 2)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
Tasmania	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 6:00pm Friday 3 April 2020, additional restrictions on the operation of businesses and services will come into effect. See website.</li> <li>• Effective immediately (Thursday April 2), the following are not permitted to operate:</li> <li>• Horse racing and greyhound racing meets and trials. Training facilities will remain open as will services that provide care to racing animals e.g. farriers and animal carers.</li> <li>• As of the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, further restrictions for businesses in North-West Tasmania have been introduced. Businesses deemed as non-essential can only trade if they can continue to trade online or via telephone. Find more information <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The restrictions on North-West non-essential businesses has been extended to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/business-restrictions">https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/business-restrictions</a>  <b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
ACT	<p>From 11.59pm on 31 March 2020 until 11.59pm on 13 April 2020, a person who owns, controls or operates a <b>non-essential business or undertaking</b> in the Australian Capital Territory must not operate that business or undertaking.</p> <p><a href="#">Public Health (Closure of Non-Essential Business or Undertaking) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 4).</a>  <b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>
Northern Territory	<p>In line with federal statement with additional orders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a business that holds a gaming machine licence within the meaning of the Gaming Machine Act 1995;</li> <li>a venue operated by the Returned &amp; Services League of Australia Limited;</li> <li>a venue that operates a totalisator or conducts totalisator wagering in accordance with a totalisator licence granted under the Totalisator Licensing and Regulation Act 2000</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">COVID-19 Directions (No. 17) 2020 Directions to Close Public Places, Services and Activities</a> from 2 April 2020.  <b>Please check specific exemptions.</b></p>

Isolated remote community hubs are not included in these restrictions.

Other facilities (that do not fall in the list above) are not impacted, but will be considered under stage 2 restrictions, if necessary.

### *Restrictions to Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings - Federal statement*

On **29 March 2020**, National Cabinet agreed to limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings to two persons only. Exceptions to this limit include:

- People of the same household going out together
- Funerals – a maximum of 10 people
- Weddings – a maximum of 5 people
- Family units

Individual state and territories may choose to mandate/ or enforce this requirement.

#### **Definition of “indoor gathering”:**

Refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed).

National Cabinet’s strong guidance to all Australians is to stay home unless for:

- Shopping for what you need – food and necessary supplies
- Medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements
- Exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
- Work and study if you can’t work or learn remotely

## Restrictions to Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings – State and Territory statement

New South Wales	<b>These restrictions are enforceable under the <u>Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020, effective 31 March 2020.</u></b>
Victoria	<p><b>27 April</b> – The VIC Premier has announced that the aim is to test 100,000 Victorians in two weeks before deciding to ease stage three restrictions.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Direction - Stay at home (No 2) (PDF)</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Direction - Restricted activity (PDF)</a></u></p>
Queensland	Find the summary of Home Confinement, Movement and Gathering Direction <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .
South Australia	<u><a href="#">Restrictions on business, organisations activities, events and gatherings in South Australia - COVID-19</a></u>
Western Australia	<p><b>Mass Gatherings Directions</b> Prohibiting non-essential mass gatherings in order to prevent, control, or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u><a href="#">Mass Gatherings Directions</a></u></li> </ul> <p><b>Prohibited Gatherings Directions</b> (a) to revoke the Mass Gatherings Directions (No 2) made on 20 March 2020; and (b) to prohibit certain gatherings in order to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u><a href="#">Prohibited Gatherings Directions</a></u></li> </ul>
Tasmania	<u><a href="#">Direction under Section 16 - Gatherings</a></u>
ACT	<p>Public Health (Indoor Gatherings) Emergency Declaration 2020 (19 March 2020) Public Health (Outdoor Gatherings) Emergency Declaration 2020 (19 March 2020) <u><a href="https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws/list-of-enforceable-government-directions-during-coronavirus">https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws/list-of-enforceable-government-directions-during-coronavirus</a></u></p>
Northern Territory	<u><a href="#">CHO Directions No 14 - Gatherings PDF (108.2 KB)</a></u>

### *Definition of Vulnerable Groups - Federal statement*

**30 March 2020** - The National Cabinet has also endorsed the AHPPC advice on defining vulnerable people in the workplace, specifically that the following people are, or are likely to be, at higher risk of serious illness if infected:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- People 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions. Conditions included in the definition of 'chronic medical conditions' will be refined as more evidence emerges.
- People 70 years and older
- People with [compromised immune systems](#)

Where vulnerable workers undertake essential work, a risk assessment must be undertaken. Where risk cannot be appropriately mitigated employers and employees should consider alternate arrangement to accommodate a workplace absence. Special provisions apply to essential workers who are at higher risk of serious illness, and where risk cannot be sufficiently mitigated, should not work in high risk settings.



## 4. Travel Restrictions

### *Federal statements*

**9 April 2020** the National Cabinet agreed all states and territories will implement a consistent and immediate exemption for non-cruise maritime crew to provide for the transiting to and from their places of work, within and across jurisdictions with agreed documentation.

National Cabinet noted that states and territories may adopt additional protocols in consultation with industry that creates protection for crews on board vessels, and will put in place appropriate penalties for companies and individuals that are found to be in breach of the requirements of the exemption which will be reviewed on 1 June 2020.

National Cabinet agreed to implement the revised advice from the AHPPC in relation to air crew quarantine exemptions. As a result, air crew on international flights will be required to self-isolate at their place of residence (or hotel if not in their local city) between flights or for 14 days, whichever is shorter. Domestic air crew are exempt from self-isolation requirements except when a state or territory specifically prohibits entry.

**30 March 2020** the National cabinet that aviation and maritime crew provide an essential ensuring that Australians can return home, and that essential movements of critical goods and supplies continue. National Cabinet re-confirmed that international flight crew and maritime crew are granted a concession from the mandatory 14 day quarantine requirements for individuals arriving in Australia.

National Cabinet also noted that state and territory governments can consider exceptional circumstance exemptions to the requirement to serve the mandatory 14 day self-isolation in a hotel or other facility, so as to enable vulnerable or at-risk individuals to self-isolate at home – including for minors or those with medical conditions, such as those returning to Australia from the Medical Treatment Overseas Program.

**27 March 2020** the National Cabinet noted:

- The Commonwealth Government introduced stronger measures to restrict the movement of incoming travellers. As of Saturday 28 March 11:59, all travellers arriving in Australia will be required to undertake mandatory 14 day self-isolation at designated facilities such as a hotel at the city of entry. This will be implemented by State and Territory Governments with the help of the Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force.

24 March 2020 the National Cabinet noted:

- The Commonwealth Government will implement a '**do not travel**' ban on Australians travelling overseas under the Biosecurity Act 2015.
- Exemptions, which will be managed by the Australian Border Force, will apply to a range of categories of travellers, including for those citizens ordinarily resident overseas, where travel is essential or necessary, where travel is in our national interest, and on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.
- This prohibition is aligned with the Government's decision to raise the Smartraveller Travel Advice to Level 4 - Do Not Travel overseas.

22 March 2020 the Prime Minister called for Australians to:

- Immediately **reconsider all non-essential domestic travel**, and says people should "exercise their common sense" when it comes to deciding what essential travel is.

19th March 2020 the Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison announced:

- From 9pm on 20 March **Australia’s borders will be closed for all except for Australian citizens, residents and their immediate family members**
- Australian government is working with Qantas to maintain flights needed to get Australian citizens and residents home from overseas
- Domestic air travel: Transmission of COVID-19 on planes is considered minimal, however, to minimise the spread of infection, all non-essential travel should be reconsidered.

## *States & Territories Domestic Travel Restrictions and Exemptions*

**All jurisdictions consider freight and logistics as essential services**, so freight is still able to move across state borders. However, the arrangements for doing so may vary.

Most jurisdictions are still in the early stages of implementing their border closures and **some details of processes/ requirements may alter as implementation is refined.**

New South Wales	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
Victoria	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For entry to QLD. As of 12.01am on Friday 3 April 2020 you cannot enter QLD unless you are an exempt person, who is a QLD resident or a person moving to make a residence in QLD. The border restriction Declaration was made at 11:00pm last night.</li> <li>• Since midnight Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March borders have shut. Any inter-state arrival must self-isolate for 14 days, unless deemed “exempt”. However, if the exempt person has travelled to certain <a href="#">locations</a> deemed as hotspots by the Chief Medical Officer they must self-isolate for 14 days. The requirement to self-isolate extends to Queensland residents if they are returning from hotspot.</li> <li>• Queensland's state disaster coordinator says arrangements will be made for people living in border communities.</li> <li>• Those travelling for essential services should apply online for a <a href="#">Queensland Entry Pass</a>. This pass will be issued electronically and printed to be displayed in-vehicle to enable priority passage.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions include:</b> National or State security officer or government employee, health services worker, emergency services worker, transport, freight and logistics worker, specialist skills worker, people living and working close to a border, compassionate entry or compulsion of law.</li> </ul>
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people entering South Australia to isolate for 14-days from their arrival.</li> <li>• This will apply immediately to South Australians, other Australians and other travellers, and will be supported by border control from Tuesday 24 March at 4pm.</li> <li>• Those travelling to South Australia for essential travellers (transport and freight services) may be asked to justify ‘essential’ status by police at a bordering checking point.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions</b> for essential travel to maintain health, the food supply chain, and the State’s economic needs.</li> </ul>
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WA Government has announced the temporary closure of the Western Australian border and tighter restrictions for the Kimberley region. The WA State border will be closed from 11.59pm on Sunday, 5 April 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional restrictions to the <u>previously announced</u> Kimberley regional restrictions will come into force from 11.59pm, Thursday 2 April 2020.</li> <li>• As of 12.00am (WST) Tuesday, March 31, WA residents are not permitted to leave their regional boundary, regional boundaries are defined <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions</b> will apply for reason including work, to attend medical appointments (including veterinary), delivery of essential services including health or emergency services, people living across regional boundaries who may not have access to groceries or supplies, transport of goods, for school, TAFE or tertiary study reasons, to escape domestic violence due to an emergency and compassionate grounds.</li> <li>• As of 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, anyone arriving in Western Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.</li> <li>• Those travelling to Western Australia for essential business must complete a <a href="#">WA Border Arrivals Form</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions</b> will apply to essential services and workers, including: National or State security officer or government employee, health services worker, emergency services worker, transport, freight and logistics worker, specialist skills worker and special exemptions will be granted when needed.</li> </ul>
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From midnight, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, all non-essential travellers departing for Tasmania will be required to quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>• <b>Travel restrictions do not apply to Tasmanian residents on our islands</b>, such as King and Flinders, flying into mainland Tasmania. However they will apply to anyone travelling inbound to the island from mainland Australia including residents returning home to the island. Mainland Australians flying into our islands then onto mainland Tasmania will need to self-quarantine when they arrive.</li> <li>• Freight will continue to come in and out of the state, and with TT-Line having capacity to carry extra freight.</li> <li>• Those requiring interstate medical treatment will also be able to utilise the Royal Flying Doctor's Service.</li> <li>• Those travelling to Tasmania for essential business (freight and logistics) must complete a <a href="#">Tasmanian Arrivals Form</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions:</b> The quarantine period will not apply to essential travellers – such as National or State security officer or government employee, health services worker, emergency services worker, transport, freight and logistics worker, specialist skills worker and special exemptions will be granted when needed. Full definitions of Tasmania's essential traveller categories can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
ACT	<i>In line with Federal restrictions</i>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 4.00pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, people who arrive in the Northern Territory from interstate will be required to quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>• Those travelling to the Northern Territory for essential business (transport, freight and logistics) must complete a border arrivals form.</li> <li>• <b>Exemptions:</b> health and emergency services, defence and policing, flight crews and freight – with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this. Delivery of food and freight (essential goods and services) will continue. There will be exemptions granted on compassionate grounds, arrivals will have to show they meet the essential arrival criteria to be granted an exemption.</li> </ul>

## 5. Self-Isolation Requirements

### *Federal Restrictions*

All people who arrive in Australia from midnight 15 March 2020, or think they may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance\\_7.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance_7.pdf)

### **Expansion of coronavirus testing criteria**

**25 March 2020** - National Cabinet agreed to an Australian Health Principal Protection Committee (AHPCC) recommendation to expand the current coronavirus testing criteria to include testing people with fever or acute respiratory infection in:

- all health workers
- all aged/residential care workers
- geographically localised areas where there is elevated risk of community transmission as defined by the local public health unit
- where no community transmission is occurring, high risk settings where there are two or more
- plausibly-linked cases, for example:
  - aged and residential care
  - rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
  - detention centres/correctional facilities
  - boarding schools
  - military bases (including Navy ships) that have live-in accommodation.

National Cabinet also agreed that testing will be expanded to include hospitalised patients with fever and acute respiratory symptoms of unknown cause, at the discretion of the treating clinician. This is the minimum testing criteria.

National Cabinet agreed to implement nationally consistent public health directions, at state and territory level, on self-quarantine for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19.

On **26<sup>th</sup> March**, over 36 million messages were sent out with the following advice by Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

- Be at least 1.5 metres away from everyone and don't gather
- If you're sick, stay at home
- Wash your hands and do it often
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow and not hands
- Don't touch your face at all, even if it itches
- And if you've returned from overseas or in isolation you must adhere to the rules

### **What do I do if I get sick?**

If you develop symptoms (fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath) within 14 days of returning to Australia, or within 14 days of last contact of a confirmed case, you should arrange to see your doctor for urgent assessment. You should telephone the health clinic or hospital before you arrive and tell them your travel history or that you have been in contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. You must remain isolated either in your home, hotel or a healthcare setting until public health authorities inform you it is safe for you to return to your usual activities.

## States & Territory Restrictions

States enforce these with state specific penalties – refer to Public Health Act in relevant state.

New South Wales	<a href="https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/public-health-orders">https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/public-health-orders</a>
Victoria	<a href="#">Direction - Isolation (Diagnosis (PDF))</a>
Queensland	<a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/home-confinement-movement-gathering-direction">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/home-confinement-movement-gathering-direction</a> Self-isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 Direction
South Australia	<a href="#">Isolation Following Diagnosis or Close Contact (663KB)</a>
Western Australia	<a href="#">Self-Isolation Test and Close Contact Directions</a> <a href="#">Self-Isolation Following Interstate Travel Directions</a> <a href="#">Self-Isolation Following Overseas Travel Directions</a> <a href="#">Self-Isolation Following Overseas Travel Directions (No 2)</a> <a href="#">Self-Isolation Following Overseas Travel Directions (No 3)</a> From 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, unless exempted, arrivals from interstate will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days. Individuals are asked to cancel any holiday to WA – or individuals will need to self-isolate. WA Government working to acquire hotels for self-isolation so people can be quarantined. Actively investigating using Rottnest island as a quarantine zone.
Tasmania	<a href="#">Direction under Section 16 - Isolation</a> From midnight, Friday 20 March, all passengers will be screened on arrival and must demonstrate they meet the essential traveller criteria. If they are deemed non-essential, they will be directed to quarantine themselves for 14 days at their stated place of address. Tasmania Police and Biosecurity Tasmania will ensure compliance with the quarantine measures, helping people to access support and follow up to ensure the process is adhered to.
ACT	<a href="#">Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (25 March 2020)</a>
Northern Territory	<a href="#">CHO Directions No 7 - Directions for Infected Persons</a> From 4.00pm on Tuesday, people who arrive in the Northern Territory from interstate will be required to quarantine for 14 days. There will be exemptions to the quarantine period requirement. Arrivals will have to show they meet the essential arrival criteria to be granted an exemption.

## 6. Declared Emergencies, Orders & Penalties

### *Federal - Human Biosecurity Emergency Declared*

#### *Commonwealth emergency powers*

- [Biosecurity \(Human Biosecurity Emergency\) \(Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential\) \(Emergency Requirements\) Determination 2020](#) <sup>13</sup> (18 March 2020)
- [Biosecurity \(Human Biosecurity Emergency\) \(Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential\) \(Overseas Travel Ban Emergency Requirements\) Determination 2020](#) <sup>14</sup> (25 March 2020)
- [Biosecurity \(Human Biosecurity Emergency\) \(Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential\) \(Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities\) Determination 2020](#) <sup>15</sup> (26 March 2020)
- [Biosecurity \(Human Biosecurity Emergency\) \(Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential\) \(Emergency Requirements – Retail Outlets at International Airports\) Determination 2020](#) <sup>16</sup> (28 March 2020)

The National Cabinet noted that Commonwealth, States and Territories were implementing emergency powers under respective legislation in order to be able to deal with the spread of COVID-19 as quickly and flexibly as possible.

The Governor-General has accepted the Commonwealth Government's recommendation that he declare a "human biosecurity emergency" under the Biosecurity Act 2015 given the risks COVID-19 poses to human health and the need to control its spread in Australia.

That declaration allows the Health Minister to issue targeted, legally enforceable directions and requirements to combat the virus. The declaration was recommended by the Chief Medical Officer in his capacity as the Director of Human Biosecurity.

The first emergency direction made under the declaration is to formally prohibit international cruise ships from entering Australian ports for an initial 30 days, which provides additional legal support for the decision announced on Sunday 15 March 2020.

The Health Minister has now restricted the movement into certain remote areas to protect the most vulnerable Australians. From 11:59 the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, anyone wishing to enter designated areas will need to self-isolate for 14 days before entering. The areas that are restricted will be determined by State and Territory Governments.

## States & Territories – Emergency Declarations and Orders

New South Wales	No State of Emergency declaration as at March 23, 2020 <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>
Victoria	<p><b>State of Emergency declared</b> - March 16, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available.</i> The state of emergency gives health officials the power to detain people, search premises without a warrant and force people or areas into lockdown.</p> <p><i>Vic government gazette s156 - public health and wellbeing act 2008</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibited Gatherings Directions</li> <li>• Non-Essential Activity Directions</li> </ul> <p><i>Vic government gazette s161 - public health and wellbeing act 2008</i> Directions from Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease) in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared State of Emergency Non-Essential Activity Directions (No. 2) No.3 on the 14<sup>th</sup> April extends restrictions to May 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><i>Vic government gazette – COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020</i> This Act was passed on 23 April 2020 and came into operation on 25 April 2020. It temporarily amends certain Acts, and temporarily empowers the making of regulations, to modify certain aspects of the law of Victoria to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Queensland	<p>No State of Emergency declaration as at March 23, 2020 Emergency laws passed on 18 March 2020 will grant extra powers to the Chief Health Officer. <i>Public Health Act powers available. Several amendments to the public health act have been made:</i></p> <p>Border Restrictions: <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions</a></p> <p>Aged Care: <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care</a></p> <p>Non-essential business activity: <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care</a></p> <p>Protecting Public Officials: <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/protecting-public-officials-and-workers-direction">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/protecting-public-officials-and-workers-direction</a></p>
South Australia	<p><b>State of Emergency declared</b> – March 22, 2020 - <i>Emergency Management Act powers available</i> <i>Public Health Emergency declared - Mar 15, 2020</i></p>
Western Australia	<p><b>State of Emergency declared</b> – March 16, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available</i></p>
Tasmania	<p><b>State of Emergency declared</b> – March 19, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available.</i> Public Health Emergency declared – March 17, 2020</p>

ACT	Public Health Emergency declared – March 16, 2020 <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Public Health Emergency declared – March 19, 2020 Public Health Act powers available.</i>

### States and Territories - Penalties and Fines

NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals could be jailed for six months and/or fined \$11,000 plus a \$5,500 per day fine if they keep breaking social distancing requirements. For corporations, those fines are \$55,000 and \$27,500 respectively.</li> <li>It is left to the police officers' discretions who receives the fine.</li> <li>NSW Health has outlined details about its restrictions on gatherings and movement, including outlining 16 "reasonable excuses" for leaving the house and 14 "essential gatherings". Included in these exemptions, is fulfilling shared-custody arrangements.</li> <li>The NSW Government has allowed the police to issue on the spot fines of \$5,000 to anyone who coughs or spits on health workers, police, pharmacists, paramedics or public officials.</li> <li>Full list of reasonable <a href="#">exemptions</a> in NSW.</li> </ul>
VIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the spot fines of up to \$1,652 for individuals and \$9,913 for businesses for failure to comply with public health directions about gatherings and self-isolation.</li> <li>With Victoria now at stage 3 restrictions, those fines can be increased by courts if need be. Larger fines and even the possibility of criminal charges are also available.</li> <li>Full list of reasonable <a href="#">exemptions</a> in VIC.</li> </ul>
QLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum penalty for people who don't comply with a public health direction in Queensland is 100 penalty units for individuals (where one unit represents a fine of \$133.45).</li> <li>Police can only issue on-the-spot fines of \$1,334.50 for individuals and \$6,672.50 for corporations.</li> <li>Full list of reasonable <a href="#">exemptions</a> in QLD.</li> </ul>
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fines could be as much as \$16,800 or six months in jail.</li> <li>Premier provided an example of an exemption to penalties as clearing out a deceased relatives house.</li> <li>Full list of reasonable <a href="#">exemptions</a> in Tasmania.</li> </ul>
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Australia is currently not enforcing the two-person gathering laws. The Premier, however, has urged people to follow the 2 person gathering rules.</li> <li>Police will issue \$1,000 to individuals and \$5,000 to businesses gathering in groups larger than 10.</li> </ul>
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislation will enter parliament this week to allow police officers to issue on-the-spot fines of \$1,000 for those who do not comply with social distancing requirements. Other restrictions are enforceable by fines of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for businesses.</li> <li>The premier said drones would also be used to break up gatherings, flying over beaches, parks and other likely social hotspots and broadcasting messages about social distancing rules through speakers.</li> <li>The premier is also seeking to pass laws that will allow police to compel someone who fails to comply with a self-isolation order to wear an electronic device and make it a criminal offence to purposefully cough or sneeze on a healthcare worker or emergency service worker if you have Covid-19.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WA Government is providing an additional \$73.4 million to recruit more police officers and strengthen police tracking capacity.</li> <li>• The interim list of reasonable <a href="#">exemptions</a> in WA, the full list is yet to be finalised.</li> </ul>
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT will enforce the two-person limit, however, households are allowed up to two additional guests, as long as there is still at least four-square metres per person indoors.</li> <li>• ACT police officers would be issuing a warning in the first instance of offence. The Chief Minister said that first phase of enforcing new rules would be about education and warnings, but the second phase would include the capacity for police to issue fines.</li> <li>• For the moment, ACT police would focus on enforcing the two-person gathering limits, not why people have left their homes.</li> </ul>
NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NT will not be enforcing the two-person gathering rules. The Chief Minister stated it would stick to the 10-person limit right now, but will enforce stricter laws if people did not follow social distancing rules.</li> <li>• “If the police need to go around enforcing a lower limit, they will, but we expect Territorians will do the right thing and save our police the time and hassle,” he said.</li> </ul>

## 7. Statements on Schools, Higher Education and TAFEs

### *Federal Statement*

**1 May 2020** - National Cabinet adopted the AHPPC statement on risk management for re-opening boarding schools and school-based residential colleges. The AHPPC has made a number of practical recommendations that these boarding schools and colleges should consider, including a reduction in the number of boarding students, staggered dining times and establishing procedures for quarantine.

**28 April 2020**- The Government has offered early independent schools early access to funding if they return to face-to-face teaching.

**16 April 2020** – National Cabinet agreed with the AHPPC health advice that “on current evidence, schools can be fully open” along with the “practical guidance and advice” the AHPPC provided school leaders to even further reduce the “relatively low risk” of transmission in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Cabinet also agreed to a series of National Principles for School Education, as follows:

1. Our schools are critical to the delivery of high-quality education for students and to give our children the best possible start in life. Our education systems are based on the recognition that education is best delivered by professional teachers to students in the classroom on a school campus.
2. It is accepted that during the COVID-19 crisis, alternative flexible, remote delivery of education services may be needed
3. Our schools must be healthy and safe environments for students, teachers and other staff to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of education to students.
4. State and Territory Governments and non-government sector authorities are responsible for managing and making operational decisions for their school systems respectively, subject to compliance with relevant funding agreements with the Commonwealth.
5. Decisions regarding the response to COVID-19 in the schooling sector must continue to be informed by expert, official, national and state-based public health and education advice, consistent with these national principles.
6. All students must continue to be supported by their school to ensure participation in quality education during the COVID 19 crisis.
7. The health advice consistently provided by the AHPPC is that attendance at a school campus for education represents a very low health risk to students. The advice also notes that appropriate practices must be employed at schools, like at other workplaces, to provide a safe working environment for school staff, including teachers, and that the specific AHPPC advice regarding school campuses should be followed.

**7 April 2020** – The Federal Education Minister announced that the Commonwealth and the States have agreed that all Year 12 students will finish high school this year and receive an ATAR university entrance rank. The Government will consult further on possible adjustments to this year’s ATAR scoring.

**6 April 2020** – Federal and State Education Ministers will meet next on the 7<sup>th</sup> April to canvass further changes needed to the assessment for Year 12 students including extending the academic year, postponing final exams, boosting overall scores and changing the university application procedure.

**30 March 2020** – The National Cabinet announced that parents working through the COVID-19 crisis will receive free childcare under a \$1.6 billion federal government plan announced yesterday. It is expected that one million families will benefit from the temporary overhaul of the childcare system, to commence Sunday 5th April 2020.

The objective of the childcare changes is to keep parents at work and childcare workers in a job. The temporary funding arrangements will mean parents will get childcare for free with the government waiving the gap fee for parents who have been paying for childcare, backdated to March 23.

The new system will see payments start flowing at the end of next week. The system will be reviewed after one month, with an extension to be considered after three months. The payments will be paid in lieu of the Child Care and Additional Child Care Subsidy payments and will work in combination with the JobKeeper payments. The country's largest child care company, Goodstart Early Learning, is over \$1 billion turnover so is reporting that it may not be able to access the JobKeeper payments unless discretion is used. This will be one of issues that will need to be resolved in coming days.

There is also need for clarification as to whether all parents who used childcare services prior to the COVID-19 crisis will be able to access the free care scheme, or only the children of essential services workers. The Education Minister, Dan Tehan, has indicated that the government is asking Centres to prioritise those who need their children cared for because they are working, and working where they can't care for their children safely at home. Previous advice (below) on schools remains unchanged.

While the medical advice remains that it is safe for children to go to school, to assist with the transition underway in our schools to the new mode of operation it is asked that only children of workers for whom no suitable care arrangements are available at home to support their learning, physically attend school. This is vital to ensure that no parent should be forced to choose between their employment and the children's education.

Government have asked the AHPPC to develop guidelines about how staff in schools can protect themselves, manage social distance requirements and cater for those students who are at school. This will include guidelines for staff who work with vulnerable children, particularly those who have additional needs.

Government will continue to meet with education stakeholders and unions so that they can understand the education challenges for our communities and work constructively towards solutions. That will include the National Cabinet's consideration of the measures needed for early childhood settings and TAFE.

## *Higher Education*

The peak body for universities, Universities Australia has said that universities may consider extracurricular work, Year 11 work and Year 12 assessments. Where appropriate universities will use aptitude tests, bridging courses and catch-up sessions whenever needed. Some states have introduced considerations for universities within that state such as Tasmania (more details below), alternatively, universities have introduced their own measures, such as ANU, who until the end of May will admit students based on Year 11 results.

## State & Territory Statements- Schools

New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28<sup>th</sup> April – NSW will return to face-to-face teaching from May 11, and then will consider accelerating a full return to school as soon as possible.</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> April - NSW school students will gradually transition back to the classroom during Term 2. From week three of Term 2, every student will be attending school for one day a week. “We will look to increase the number of days students are at school in a staged way and hope to have all children back at school full-time by Term 3.</li> </ul>
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Merlino, Minister for Education, has announced that government primary, secondary and special schools will move to flexible learning and teaching from Term 2. With free internet access and laptops for those who need it most.</li> <li>• VCE students will still receive an ATAR, but there will be adjustments to the academic timetable for VCE and VCAL students. Including postponing the General Achievement Test (GAT) to October or November and end of year exams to December. School based assessment will also be reduced where possible to reduce the pressure on the transition to flexible learning. Universities are asked to delay the start of the 2021 university year to accommodate for these changes.</li> <li>• Premier, Daniel Andrews, has announced that he expects present school arrangements will continue till the end of Term 2.</li> </ul>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4 May 2020</b> – The QLD Premier has announced the first steps allowing Queensland children to return to school:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 11: Kindergarten, Prep, Years 1, 11 and 12</li> <li>○ May 15: Assess state-wide response to easing restrictions</li> <li>○ May 25: Proposed re-opening to remaining students in remaining grades</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> April: SA’s Chief Public Health Officer, has written to parents and school staff across the state encouraging them to send their children to school or preschool when Term 2 begins next week. The letter notes the low levels of COVID-19 in SA along with wider health strategies imply that there is no need for school closures.</li> <li>• Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April to the 9<sup>th</sup> of April will be pupil-free days in all SA government schools and preschools. This move will assist the state’s educators to plan and prepare to transition to flexible learning for Term 2. It is anticipated that Catholic schools will implement similar arrangements.</li> </ul>
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Term 2 commences on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, schools will be open for all parents or carers who choose to send children to school. The arrangements will be reviewed at the end of week 4. All Year 11 and 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend to continue course requirements for graduation.</li> </ul>

Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Government schools will return on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April, except for Government and Catholic schools in the North West of Tasmania which must remain closed due to additional restrictions in this area. These schools will reopen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. These restrictions also extend to those who may live in the North West but attend an out of area school to learn or work.</li> <li>• The Tasmanian Government has announced a New School Recommendation Program. This program will enable students to apply for most undergraduate courses at the University of Tasmania and be made an offer much earlier in the year based on the recommendation of their school. The criteria for the program will include factors such as students' Year 11 results, an assessment of their capabilities and the perspective of those who have taught them. This acknowledges that it is the teachers who know their students best and can assess their readiness for university.</li> </ul>
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 May 2020-</b> The ACT is preparing to return to face-to-face delivery during Term 2, this is likely to involve a staged approach beginning with younger children in primary schools, followed by secondary students. While this occurs, public hubs remain available to parents who are unable to accommodate their children learning remotely at home.</li> <li>• ACT public schools will be moving to an alternative delivery of learning with most students to undertake their learning from home. ACT public schools will move to remote learning in term 2, beginning Tuesday 28 April. For parents and carers who cannot keep their children at home, due to work or additional needs, the ACT Government will provide supervision at a reduced number of public-school sites for these students to continue to be provided with support.</li> </ul>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister for Education, Selena Uibo, has announced that all students are expected to physically attend school from the start of Term 2 (20<sup>th</sup> April). Exceptions can be made for parents who have informed the school their child will be learning from home.</li> </ul>

## State & Territory Statements- TAFEs

New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAFE NSW is pausing all training and educational delivery starting Monday 30 March. During the temporary pause, teaching teams will work to get everything ready for classes to recommence on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. At this point TAFE NSW will recommence delivery to students through connected and blended delivery.</li> <li>• There will be some exceptions to the pause. TAFE Digital courses and practical delivery of training for critical skills areas that are due to complete before the end of term 1 will continue.</li> </ul>
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Victorian Government announced additional measures to help reduce people's chance of infection and slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes the shutdown of many non-essential services across Victoria. This does not include the closures of TAFEs, Learn Locals or training organisations.</li> <li>• All TAFEs and training organisations are encouraged to increase their ability to deliver training remotely or online where possible. For some training this may not be possible, in these circumstances it is critical that physical distancing guidelines are followed.</li> <li>• VETiS will continue as normal at present, this includes RTOs.</li> </ul>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAFE Queensland will pause all training and educational (including placements and VETiS) delivery from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and recommence after the Easter break. There will be some exceptions from critical skills areas and teachers will work directly with their students to ensure progression and completion.</li> <li>• TAFE Queensland education and training delivery will recommence from 20 April 2020. The majority of course will be delivered online. Limited face-to-face on-campus delivery will take place.</li> <li>• Campuses will introduce measures to stop the spread of Coronavirus on campus, including students being required to complete a wellness check before being admitted to any campus-based activities, reduced class sizes, moving to bigger classrooms where possible etc.</li> </ul>
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAFE SA will be extending the mid-semester break to start 30 March and end 27 April. This time will allow staff to work on new delivery methods and models.</li> <li>• Under advice from the Communicable Disease Control Branch of SA Health, education services in and between the towns of Nuriootpa, Tanunda, Angaston, Lyndoch and Williamston will close from Monday 30 March.</li> </ul>
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>27 April-</b> WA TAFE colleges have prepared a new blended style of delivery for Term 2, which begins 28 April. Term 2 will include learning via online and interactive technologies and will include face-to-face delivery where necessary and where adequate social distancing measures can be implemented.</li> <li>• From Monday, March 30 until April 9, there will be a temporary pause in face-to-face delivery of most courses. Essential services courses such as nursing and aged care will continue,</li> </ul>

	as well as practical assessments for hospitality/ cookery students and final stage apprentices who need to be assessed in a practical workshop. WA TAFE colleges need to develop a new delivery of training in response to COVID-19.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TasTAFE campuses and training facilities are open for scheduled small groups only. All TasTAFE campuses and training facilities will be closed from 9 April to 27 April. All courses recommence 27 April in the online environment. Only scheduled small group sessions will be held on campus.</li> <li>• Find the list of campuses open for timetabled students <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• All TasTAFE campuses and training facilities in Burnie and Devonport are closed to all staff and students until and including Monday 27 April 2020 due to restrictions on the North-West Region.</li> </ul>
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIT has paused classes until the scheduled CIT Easter break (10 April).</li> <li>• Term 2 will commence from 28 April and teaching and learning will only be offered online or remotely. Students are advised not to attend CIT campuses. Throughout the first two weeks of Term 2, teachers will reach out and connect with students to ensure they continue to support their engagement in learn and adapt to these challenging times.</li> </ul>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given NT unique delivery of VET, each VET provider can ultimately determine on an appropriate response to COVID-19.</li> <li>• At this stage, the majority of VET provider continue to deliver face-to-face training following social distancing requirements.</li> </ul>

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