



Australian Government

SM20/0168/NATCAB
15 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Other	SM20/0168	NATIONAL CABINET FOR AUSTRALIA'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
--------------	------------------	--

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ('National Cabinet') agreed to:

1. The Terms of Reference for the National Cabinet (Attachment A to this minute refers) and the establishment of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) as sub-committees of the National Cabinet.
2. Impose universal precautionary self-isolation measures for all air passengers returning to Australia from midnight AEST with the following conditions:
 - (a) self-isolation for a period of 14 days from arrival in Australia
 - (b) returning passengers will not require a personal protective mask on arrival with the exception of those passengers returning to Australia who have been in Japan, China, Italy or the Republic of South Korea within the last 14 days, or who present as unwell
 - (c) passengers transiting Australia who are en route to a Pacific Island country destination (excluding New Zealand) are exempt from these precautionary self-isolation measures.

3. Put in place a ban effective from midnight AEST on all non-essential mass gatherings of more than 500 people.
4. Put in place a ban on cruise ship arrivals into Australian ports, for a minimum of 30 days from midnight AEST, with the following conditions:
 - (a) authority for cruise ships to enter into Australian ports is to be managed on a case-by-case basis by the Minister for Home Affairs in consultation with the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs
 - (b) Australian residents disembarking from cruise ships authorised to arrive in Australian ports are to undergo precautionary self-isolation for 14 days
 - (c) foreign residents disembarking from cruise ships authorised to arrive in Australian ports who are immediately continuing their journey home are exempt from precautionary self-isolation measures.
5. Adopt the advice of the AHPPC to encourage all Australians to put in place personal social distancing and hygiene measures, such as regular hand washing and not shaking hands, to reduce the spread of coronavirus.
6. States and Territories will give effect to the new self-isolation measures and the ban on non-essential mass gatherings of greater than 500 people by invoking the public health emergency powers necessary to give effect to these measures.
7. As a priority, the AHPPC provide further advice in relation to aged care facilities and other vulnerable populations and on the management of events held indoors and other closed-space environments.
8. The National Cabinet will meet again on 17 March 2020 to consider this AHPPC advice.
9. The NCM meet to:
 - (a) coordinate arrangements for entry to and exit from remote communities, noting that the Northern Territory has commenced internal protocols that may be the basis for adoption by other jurisdictions and the NCM will obtain this information from the Northern Territory and share it as the basis for discussion

- (b) coordinate a consistent position with respect to school closures based on existing practices in NSW and Victoria
- (c) consider issues affecting access to supermarkets for elderly and vulnerable populations, including options for addressing these issues.

10. The National Cabinet will also meet again on 20 March 2020 to discuss issues relating to schools and any reports back from the NCM on key issues.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550

National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response

The Council of Australian Governments agreed on 13 March 2020 to establish a National Cabinet to coordinate Australia's Coronavirus Response across State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government ('National Cabinet').

Purpose

The National Cabinet will consider and coordinate national Coronavirus preparedness and response measures to deal with the health, economic, societal and public safety impacts of the virus. It will aim to ensure agreed measures are implemented and communicated as consistently and effectively as possible nation-wide.

Membership

The National Cabinet will comprise the Prime Minister (Chair) and State and Territory First Ministers.

It will be supported by the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and his State and Territory counterparts.

The National Cabinet will provide strategic oversight of, and be supported by, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) and the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM).

Expert advisers will be co-opted as appropriate.

Operating principles

The National Cabinet will operate according to longstanding conventions of Cabinet government, including the guiding principles of collective responsibility and solidarity.

All proceedings and documentation of the National Cabinet will remain strictly confidential. To this end the National Cabinet will be constituted as a Cabinet Office Policy Committee, as provided for in the Australian Government Cabinet Handbook (13th edition).

The National Cabinet does not derogate from the sovereign authority and powers of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory government. The Commonwealth and the States and Territories, as appropriate, remain responsible for the implementation of responses to the Coronavirus.

For maximum effect, the decisions of the Committee should be endorsed by the Cabinet of each jurisdiction.

Formal Cabinet processes, including agendas, papers for consideration, note takers and minutes, will support the operation of the National Cabinet.

Secretariat support

The Commonwealth Cabinet Office will provide secretariat support to the National Cabinet, in collaboration with State and Territory Cabinet Secretariat support areas. Note takers will be the Commonwealth Cabinet Secretary, a senior official from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and a senior official nominated by the States and Territories.

Meeting arrangements

The National Cabinet will meet weekly on Friday at 10.00am AESDT/AEDT by telepresence or in person. Ad hoc meetings will be convened by the Chair as required to respond to urgent developments.

Agendas will be developed between the Prime Minister and First Ministers, based on advice from the secretariat.

Agendas and papers will be circulated by the secretariat through an appropriately secure system accessible to both the Commonwealth and States and Territories.

Wherever possible, papers will be circulated and comments sought from all jurisdictions prior to the meetings of the National Cabinet. Comments will be circulated to all members in advance of meetings.

These arrangements may be varied if urgent operational requirements dictate.



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 1

Tuesday 17 March 2020

8PM to 9.30PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO

RESPONSIBLE

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | |
| 2. | Coronavirus Update
<i>(Oral Update SM20/0189)</i> | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| 3. | Chief Medical Officer and Australian Health Protection Principle
Committee advice: | |
| | (a) Aged Care
<i>(AHPPC advice to be circulated)</i> | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| | (b) Indoor Gatherings
<i>(AHPPC advice to be circulated)</i> | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| 4. | Anzac Day
<i>(Oral Update SM20/0169)</i> | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| 5. | Other Business | |

Exposure Draft Due : 21 February 2020

Coordination Final Due : 06 March 2020

Final Due : 11 March 2020

Issued at : 17 Mar 2020 10:17AM



Australian Government

Amended SM20/0189/NATCAB
17 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0189	CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	---------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ('the National Cabinet'):

1. Noted the advice of the Prime Minister on decisions made by the Federal Cabinet to:

- (a) move to Level 4 travel restrictions which advises all Australians not to travel overseas
- (b) relax international student visa work conditions to allow international student nurses and other aged care workers to work more than the 40 hours a fortnight they are currently permitted to work
- (c) propose to the Governor-General on 18 March 2020 that a human biosecurity emergency declaration be made under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

2. Agreed that for indoor gatherings:

- (a) non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people will no longer be permitted with effect from Wednesday 18 March 2020, with States and Territories to implement and enforce these arrangements using their legislative powers

- (b) all jurisdictions will use a national baseline list of ‘essential’ gatherings when putting in place these new measures (see Attachment)
- (c) further consideration is to be given to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice in relation to non-essential indoor gatherings of less than 100 people, with South Australia and Victoria to work with other jurisdictions and return to the National Cabinet with advice for discussion at the 20 March 2020 meeting
- (d) the safe food handling and utensil statement for catering by the AHPPC would be advisory and will be managed through existing State and Territory regulatory frameworks
- (e) arrangements for managing gatherings in social venues (pubs, clubs and nightclubs) and gyms and indoor fitness activities will be informed by the South Australian and Victorian advice to be considered at the 20 March 2020 meeting
- (f) AHPPC advice should apply in relation to public transport (trains, trams, buses, ferries), taxi and ride share vehicles and transport of vulnerable populations, with particular attention given to cleaning and hygiene.

3. Noted the AHPPC advice that the risk of acquiring COVID-19 on planes is low and agreed to further discuss at their next meeting the broader issues associated with domestic air travel, including the implications for remote and at-risk communities.

4. Agreed the AHPPC recommendations for all outdoor events, including community sport and agreed that all sporting codes seek public health advice applicable to their codes in making decisions in relation to mass gathering issues.

5. The National Cabinet:

- (a) strongly endorsed the AHPPC advice that there is no reason for schools to close on health grounds, noting the AHPPC also advised that the same approach should apply to child care services and closures
- (b) noted that school closures would have considerable economic costs and workforce implications
- (c) agreed the AHPPC advice in relation to boarding schools and universities, including the need for risk mitigation measures such as social distancing and hygiene to be in place.

6. The National Cabinet:

- (a) agreed to all AHPPC recommendations for Residential Aged Care Facilities, including restrictions on entry, management of visitors (including children), management of residents, management of staff and visitor illness, and hygiene measures, with these new arrangements to take effect from Wednesday 18 March 2020
- (b) agreed that the Commonwealth would move to put in place regulatory arrangements to support these recommendations but in the meantime the public would be asked to cooperate with the AHPPC visitation restrictions.

7. Agreed to the AHPPC recommendation that all ANZAC Day ceremonies and events should be cancelled and agreed that all jurisdictions would give consideration to conducting small streamed/filmed ceremonies.

8. Endorsed the AHPPC recommendation on bulk purchase of supply and agreed to strongly discourage the panic purchase of food and other supplies in their public messaging.

Cabinet Secretary

Attachment A

National Baseline of Essential Gatherings

A mass gathering is any gathering of five hundred (500) or more persons in a single undivided space at the same time, whether in an indoor or outdoor space, but does not include a gathering:

- (a) at an airport that is necessary for the normal business of the airport
- (b) for the purposes of or related to public transportation, including in vehicles or at public transportation facilities such as stations, platforms and stops
- (c) at a medical or health service facility that is necessary for the normal business of the facilities
- (d) for the purposes of emergency services
- (e) at a disability or aged care facility that is necessary for the normal business of the facility
- (f) at a prison, correctional facility, youth justice centre or other place of custody
- (g) at a court or tribunal
- (h) at Parliament for the purpose of its normal operations
- (i) at a food market, supermarket, grocery store, retail store, shopping centre that is necessary for the normal business of those premises
- (j) at an office building, factory, construction site or mine site with associated accommodation facilities that is necessary for the normal operation of those premises
- (k) at a school, university, educational institution or childcare facility that is necessary for the normal business of the facility
- (l) at a hotel or motel that is necessary for the normal operation of accommodation services
- (m) at a place where five hundred (500) or more persons may be present for the purposes of transiting through the place or
- (n) specified as exempt from this direction by the Chief Health Officer in writing or delivered by an operator who has a social distancing policy approved in writing by the Chief Health Officer.



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 2

Friday 20 March 2020

10AM to 12PM

Canberra - Parliament House (ACT)

NO		RESPONSIBLE
1.	Strategic Discussion	
	(a) Economic Update (<i>Oral Update SM20/0235</i>)	Prime Minister Mr Lowe Dr Kennedy
2.	Coronavirus Update (<i>Oral Update SM20/0231</i>)	Dr Murphy
3.	Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Advice (<i>Other SM20/0225 refers</i>)	Dr Murphy
4.	National Cabinet Meeting Comebacks	
	(a) Non-essential Indoor Gatherings of Fewer than 100 People (<i>Other SM20/0226 refers</i>)	Premier Victoria Premier South Australia
	(b) Schools (<i>Oral Update SM20/0238</i>)	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
	(c) Domestic Travel (<i>Oral Update SM20/0232</i>)	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
	(d) Aged Care (<i>Other SM20/0227 refers</i>)	Premier Victoria
5.	Immediate Criminal Justice System Response (<i>Other SM20/0228 refers</i>)	Premier Victoria
6.	Remote Communities (<i>Other SM20/0234 refers</i>)	Prime Minister

7. Supermarkets
(*Presentation SM20/0237 refers*)

Mr Grigson

8. External Territories
(*Presentation SM20/0230 refers*)

Prime Minister

9. Other Business

Exposure Draft Due : 26 February 2020

Coordination Final Due : 12 March 2020

Final Due : 16 March 2020

Presentations Due : 16 March 2020

Issued at : 20 Mar 2020 01:10AM

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

SM20/0231/NATCAB_EXTRACT
20 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0231	CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	---------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

12. Agreed in-principle to the Commonwealth Minister for Health taking action under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015* to restrict travel into remote Indigenous communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with:

- (a) States and Territories to nominate areas in consultation with Indigenous communities as a matter of priority
- (b) the application of these restrictions and their enforcement to take into account the need to continue to protect women and children from domestic violence.

Cabinet Secretary

(National Indigenous Australians Agency – extract paragraph 12)



Australian Government

SM20/0231/NATCAB
20 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0231	CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	---------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

1. Noted:

- (a) the Commonwealth Government's ('the Commonwealth') decision to stop the entry of all people who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents or their immediate families into Australia from 9pm AEDST on Friday 20 March 2020 in order to align international travel restrictions with the risks
- (b) the oral update by the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury on the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic
- (c) the oral update by the Prime Minister on the development of the next package of Commonwealth support
- (d) that the Commonwealth and the States and Territories would delay their 2020-21 Budgets owing to significant difficulties faced by all governments in respect of economic forecasting.

2. Agreed that:

- (a) New South Wales and Western Australia will develop options for assistance for tenants in commercial premises, particularly small and medium businesses, for consideration by the National Cabinet on Tuesday 24 March

- (b) Victoria and South Australia will develop options for assistance for tenants in residential properties for consideration at a future meeting of the National Cabinet.
3. Noted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice on high-risk countries for COVID-19 importation risks and its continued support for the strict 14-day quarantine requirement for all returning travellers.
 4. Agreed the AHPPC advice regarding child care centre closures and noted that 'pre-emptive closures are not proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.
 5. Agreed that the Prime Minister and the Chief Medical Officer should continue to:
 - (a) emphasise strongly the AHPPC advice in relation to residential aged care facilities
 - (b) provide clear public messaging on the need for more vulnerable Australians, including older Australians, to protect themselves by avoiding gatherings and unnecessary travel outside the home.
 6. Agreed that work be undertaken on the potential workforce implications of further restrictions to protect older Australians, including further advice from the AHPPC, for consideration at a future meeting.
 7. Agreed that for non-essential indoor gatherings of 100 or fewer people:
 - (a) density requirements as recommended by the AHPPC of 1 person per four square metres would be adopted
 - (b) these arrangements would be made public by the Prime Minister on 20 March 2020
 - (c) States and Territories would mandate this regulatory requirement as soon as practicable
 - (d) these regulatory requirements could be strengthened should local health conditions require.
 8. Agreed:
 - (a) the AHPPC advice that the risk of acquiring COVID-19 on passenger aircraft is low but that unnecessary domestic air travel should be avoided in order to minimise the spread of infection over long distances

- (b) to consider domestic travel further at the next scheduled meeting on 24 March meeting, prior to the commencement of school holidays, with further advice to be provided by the AHPPC in relation to all modes of domestic travel.
9. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on actions taken to support continued operation of schools across all sectors.
10. Agreed that States and Territories would issue public health directions on visitor restrictions for aged care facilities to complement regulatory standards put in place by the Commonwealth.
11. Agreed that:
- (a) each jurisdictional adult correctional system will restructure personal prison visits to help manage the risk posed to prisoners and staff by the introduction of COVID-19 into custodial facilities
 - (b) depending on operational needs, this may include stopping visits in some jurisdictions.
12. Agreed in-principle to the Commonwealth Minister for Health taking action under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015* to restrict travel into remote Indigenous communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with:
- (a) States and Territories to nominate areas in consultation with Indigenous communities as a matter of priority
 - (b) the application of these restrictions and their enforcement to take into account the need to continue to protect women and children from domestic violence.
13. Agreed to:
- (a) continue strong public messaging by all governments regarding hoarding and panic buying
 - (b) work through the National Coordination Mechanism to identify any further actions that may be required to stop out-of-area shoppers depleting regional communities of food, grocery and medical items.
14. Noted the need to continue efforts to increase capacity in hospitals.
15. Agreed the AHPPC return to the National Cabinet with advice on:
- (a) thresholds for responding to and controlling localised outbreaks of COVID-19
 - (b) critical care capacity
 - (c) data on COVID-19 cases to assist local-level responses and identify points of stress in the system.

16. Agreed to meet each Tuesday at 6.30pm (AEDST) and each Friday at 10.00am, unless otherwise required.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 2

Sunday 22 March 2020

6.30PM to 8.30PM

Canberra - Parliament House (ACT)

NO

RESPONSIBLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Strategic Discussion
(Oral Update SM20/0248) | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| 2. Coronavirus Update
(Oral Update SM20/0246) | Dr Murphy |
| 3. AHPPC Advice: Localised Graduated Responses to COVID-19
(Other SM20/0250 refers) | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| 4. Other Business
(Oral Update SM20/0249) | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |

Exposure Draft Due : 27 February 2020

Coordination Final Due : 13 March 2020

Final Due : 17 March 2020

Issued at : 22 Mar 2020 04:55PM



Australian Government

SM20/0246/NATCAB
22 March 2020

THIS DOCUMENT HAS A LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0246	CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	---------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

1. Noted the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) on further social distancing measures.
2. Agreed:
 - (a) that widespread non-compliance with the social distancing measures introduced to date is impeding efforts to restrain the spread of the Coronavirus
 - (b) to adopt Option 1 of the AHPPC advice, with the non-essential gatherings at the following venues to be discontinued from midday (local time) on Monday 23 March 2020:
 - 🕒 Registered and licenced clubs
 - 🕒 Licenced hotel and pub premises (excluding bottle shops and off-licences attached to these venues)
 - 🕒 Hotels (excluding accommodation)
 - 🕒 Gyms and indoor sporting venues
 - 🕒 Cinemas
 - 🕒 Entertainment venues
 - 🕒 Casinos
 - 🕒 Nightclubs

- ⌚ Restaurants and cafes (which will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery services)
 - ⌚ Places of worship, religious gatherings, weddings and funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies)
- (c) these restrictions also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the venues listed in paragraph 2(b) above
- (d) these restrictions do not apply to isolated remote community hubs, which will have particular arrangements set by relevant States and Territories
- (e) that States and Territories will give effect to these Stage 1 restrictions through their own legislative processes and make announcements accordingly
- (f) these Stage 1 restrictions will be reviewed at least monthly, with any changes to the list of non-essential gatherings to be discussed and agreed by the National Cabinet before public announcement and implementation
- (g) that further Stage 2 restrictions will be considered by National Cabinet at its 24 March 2020 meeting.
3. Agreed to adopt Option 5 of the AHPPC advice, with all jurisdictions to take stronger action on enforcement of quarantine and isolation of returned travellers and confirmed cases.
4. Noted the AHPPC will develop a suite of measures to assess the efficacy of all interventions now in place.
5. Noted the AHPPC advice in relation to schools remaining open has not changed.
6. Agreed that schools should remain open on Monday 23 March 2020 and children should attend school.
7. Agreed all state and territory governments will announce the start date of new arrangements for schools, which will apply until the end-of-Term 1, with:
- (a) these arrangements meaning that schools remain open for parents who need or wish to send their children to school
 - (b) schools seeking to provide on-line learning for those children whose parents choose not to send them to school

- (c) parents whose children are not attending schools needing to ensure that their children are meeting social distancing requirements, particularly in relation to vulnerable populations.

8. Agreed that schools would reopen after the end-of-Term 1 school break, subject to health advice (which will be reassessed on a regular basis).

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 2

Tuesday 24 March 2020

6.30PM to 9PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO		RESPONSIBLE
1.	Strategic Discussion <i>(Oral Update SM20/0271)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
2.	Coronavirus Update <i>(Oral Update SM20/0266)</i>	Dr Murphy
3.	Restrictions on Social Gatherings <i>(Other SM20/0272 refers)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers Dr Murphy
4.	Managing Critical Health and Hospital Resources <i>(Other SM20/0270 refers)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
5.	Nationally Consistent Public Directions on Self-Isolation for Individuals Diagnosed with COVID-19 <i>(Other SM20/0269 refers)</i>	Premier Victoria
6.	Options for Commercial Tenancies <i>(Other SM20/0268 refers)</i>	Premier New South Wales Premier Western Australia
7.	Emerging Issues/Future Agenda Items <i>(Oral Update SM20/0265)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers

Exposure Draft Due : 28 February 2020

Coordination Final Due : 16 March 2020

Final Due : 18 March 2020

Issued at : 24 Mar 2020 11:06AM

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB
24 March 2020

THIS DOCUMENT HAS A LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

1. Noted the oral update from the Prime Minister on decisions taken by the National Security Committee COVID-19 Taskforce to:
 - (a) prevent Australians travelling overseas unless in exceptional circumstances
 - (b) prevent the export of essential sanitary and medical products
 - (c) task the Treasury Secretary to prepare advice for National Cabinet on the significant long-term structural fiscal consequences of an extended lockdown of the Australian economy.
2. Noted the update from the Chief Medical Officer that there had been a significant growth in the number of cases in Australia, mostly involving substantial numbers of returned travellers and small community outbreaks associated with travellers.
3. Agreed an expanded list of prohibited venues and activities (Attachment A refers), drawing on Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice, with states and territories to give effect to them from midnight 25 March 2020.

4. Agreed to the further clarifications provided by the AHPPC regarding the requirements of previously announced measures, in particular:

- (a) implementation of the 1 person per 4 square metre rule in all shops and businesses remaining open (customer limit, which must be displayed on a sign) with enhanced cleaning provisions in place
- (b) funerals with 10 people or fewer in attendance at any one time (adhering to the 1 person per 4 square metre rule) may proceed. Weddings may proceed with only the couple, the celebrant and (two) official witnesses present
- (c) places of worship should be closed, other than for small funerals or celebration of weddings as outlined above
- (d) consideration should be given to the risks of group accommodation at universities
- (e) highly discretionary services that require close and prolonged personal contact between the service provider and client, including beauty therapy, nail salons, massage parlours, body piercing services and tattoo parlours should not be permitted. Hair dressing is excluded but contact should be less than 30 minutes and the salon should observe the 1 person per 4 square metre occupancy rule.

5. Agreed that a strong message be given to the Australian public that:

- (a) people should avoid congregating in groups outdoors
- (b) in relation to private homes people should limit unnecessary visitors, including for private events in homes
- (c) the Prime Minister would issue a general directive to advise Australians to stay at home, unless shopping for essentials, travelling to and from work (when they cannot work from home), going to school or exercising (alone or with family members)
- (d) more aggressive contact tracing and enforcement of quarantine for contacts is of equal importance to these social distancing measures.

6. Requested that AHPPC provide advice for the National Cabinet to consider at its next meeting on setting thresholds for COVID-19 cases to guide consistent decision making on when to move to further staged restrictions.

7. Agreed that:

- (a) in line with AHPPC advice, schools should remain open for children of parents in work and parents who wish to send their children to school
- (b) the Prime Minister would work with the Australian Education Union to put in place an arrangement that would see schools remain open until Friday 3 April 2020, with any schools in states and territories with a later term break able to move to student-free arrangements to allow teachers to prepare for ongoing and more widespread on-line learning.

8. Agreed to adopt a nationally consistent approach to public directions for self-isolation for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, based on the Victorian model direction.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550

Attachment A

Additional prohibited activities and venues

Business, premises or place	Exceptions
Food and drink	
Cafes	Take away 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
Food courts	Delivery and takeaway can remain operational
Retail	
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
Beauty and personal care services	
Hairdressers and barber shops	Up to 30 min appointments and 1 person per 4 sqm rule applies in premises
Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours	
Spas and massage parlours	
Entertainment venues	
Cinema, nightclub	
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)	
Leisure and recreation	
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 outside events, limited to groups of no more than 10 people and social distancing must be exercised.
Social sporting-based activities	
Swimming pools	

Residential facilities	
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
Outdoor recreation	
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.
Non-residential institutions	
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 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.



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 2

Wednesday 25 March 2020

6.30PM to 9PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO

RESPONSIBLE

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Items Held Over from 24 March | |
| (a) | Updated AHPPC Advice - 24 March
<i>(AHPPC advice of 24 March refers)</i> | Dr Murphy |
| (b) | Managing Critical Health and Hospital Resources
<i>(AHPPC advice of 24 March refers)</i> | Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers |
| (c) | Options for Commercial Tenancies
<i>(Other SM20/0268 refers)</i> | Premier New South
Wales
Premier Western
Australia |
| 2. | AHPPC Advice of 25 March
<i>(AHPPC advice to be circulated)</i> | Dr Murphy |
| 3. | Thresholds for Next Stage of Restrictions
<i>(Oral Update SM20/0285)</i> | Dr Murphy |
| 4. | National Medical Procurement Process
<i>(Other SM20/0286 refers)</i> | Prime Minister |

Exposure Draft Due : 02 March 2020
Coordination Final Due : 17 March 2020
Final Due : 19 March 2020
Issued at : 25 Mar 2020 06:17PM



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/2
25 March 2020

THIS DOCUMENT HAS A LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the announcement of the establishment of the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission and the oral update from the Chairman, Mr Neville Power.
2. Noted the oral update from the Prime Minister on his discussions with the Australian Education Union on schools.
3. Agreed that States and Territories will keep the school sector open as long as possible through to the end of Term 1 to provide schooling, particularly for children from vulnerable families.
4. Agreed to begin work immediately on nationally consistent standards to apply after the school break for online/distance education and school-based education for children from vulnerable families, with the work to be led by the Commonwealth Minister for Education and his State and Territory ministerial colleagues, and to:
 - (a) provide a plan for the remainder of the school year, based on advice from professional educators
 - (b) address industrial issues
 - (c) address health and safety issues

- (d) cover arrangements for special needs, Indigenous and remote community children
 - (e) cover professional education support.
5. Endorsed the recommendation for States and Territories to suspend all non-urgent elective surgery.
 6. Agreed to extend the deadline for the suspension of semi-urgent Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgeries at private hospitals for 7 days.
 7. Agreed that States and Territories will continue to work with private hospital groups through existing contract negotiations.
 8. Noted that the Commonwealth would not get involved in these negotiations and that the private hospitals understand that the Commonwealth will not provide assistance if negotiations with states and territories are not resolved by 1 April 2020.
 9. Noted the Prime Minister will share a daily situation update with the National Cabinet.
 10. Noted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice of 24 March and agreed to the expansion of COVID-19 testing criteria.
 11. Noted the AHPPC advice on critical care expansion capacity and agreed that the AHPPC provide further advice on critical care capacity under medium to worst-case scenarios.
 12. Noted that a “heat map” of beds in intensive care units (ICU) is being developed and will be reported to each meeting of the National Cabinet.
 13. Requested the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provide updated modelling on the COVID-19 scenarios, taking into consideration the measures and restrictions introduced to date.
 14. Agreed that States and Territories would return to the National Cabinet on 27 March 2020 with one-page jurisdictional updates on enforcement regimes in place to support social isolation and social distancing measures.
 15. Commenced consideration of the AHPPC advice on triggers to move to the next phase of social distancing and agreed that the CMO and the Chief Health Officers of the three eastern border states would develop further advice on triggers for consideration by the National Cabinet at their 27 March 2020 meeting.
 16. Commenced consideration of the AHPPC advice on cancer screening programs and requested the AHPPC provide further advice on triaged options for screening programs, as well as advice on how options impact on COVID-19 testing capacity.

17. Adopted the advice of the AHPPC on school immunisation programs and agreed that States and Territories would manage them under their jurisdictional arrangements.
18. Agreed the AHPPC recommendation on dental services.
19. Commenced consideration of the proposed publication of COVID-19 data, with the CMO to bring back a proposal detailing what the publication would look like and how the proposed analysis would be presented.
20. Requested advice from the AHPPC on options for reducing demand for ICU beds from non COVID-19 cases.
21. Noted the oral updates from the Premiers of New South Wales and Western Australia and the Prime Minister on options for commercial tenancies and agreed to discuss this issue further at the 27 March 2020 meeting.
22. Agreed to consider, at a future meeting, mental health issues associated with the impact of COVID-19.
23. Commenced consideration of the national medical procurement process and noted that further advice would be provided on the allocation of resources based on need.
24. Agreed the Prime Minister would release a short statement on private hospitals and expanded testing criteria decisions.
25. Agreed that the 10-person limit for funeral services applies to mourners only and the States and Territories can issue individual exemptions.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 3

Friday 27 March 2020

10AM to 12PM

Canberra - Parliament House (ACT)

NO		RESPONSIBLE
1.	Strategic Discussion	
2.	Economic Issues	
(a)	Economic Update <i>(Oral Update SM20/0307)</i>	Dr Kennedy
(b)	Residential Tenancies <i>(Other SM20/0300 refers)</i>	Premier Victoria Premier South Australia
3.	Health Issues	
(a)	Coronavirus Update <i>(Oral Update SM20/0311)</i>	Dr Murphy
(b)	Returning Travellers <i>(Oral Update SM20/0312)</i>	Prime Minister Dr Murphy
(c)	State Enforcement Regimes <i>(Other SM20/0310 refers)</i>	Premiers and Chief Ministers
(d)	Thresholds for Further Restrictions <i>(Other SM20/0309 refers)</i>	Dr Murphy
(e)	Updated COVID-19 Modelling <i>(AHPPC Advice)</i>	Dr Murphy
4.	Emerging Issues/Future Agenda Items <i>(Oral Update SM20/0314)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
5.	Other Business	
(a)	Schools Statement	Prime Minister

(Other SM20/0313 refers)

Premiers and Chief
Ministers

(b) Private Hospitals
(Oral Update)

Prime Minister
Premiers and Chief
Ministers

Exposure Draft Due : 04 March 2020
Coordination Final Due : 19 March 2020
Final Due : 23 March 2020
Issued at : 27 Mar 2020 09:12AM

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/3
27 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ('the National Cabinet'):

1. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on the G20 Leaders' discussions overnight and the development of a third Commonwealth Government economic package.
2. Noted the oral presentation by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Treasury Department on the potential economic and workforce implications arising from different levels of social distancing restrictions and business closures.
3. Agreed that Treasurers, through the Heads of Treasuries process, share and refine work on the economic impacts of COVID-19 responses, including additional analysis of the interactions between health and economic assumptions and modelling.
4. Agreed:
 - (a) assistance provided to commercial tenants should be guided by the underlying principle of 'business hibernation'
 - (b) Treasurers be tasked with finalising agreed proposals on commercial and residential tenancies for National Cabinet consideration at its next meeting.

5. Noted the Coronavirus health update by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and his advice that returning international travellers remain the most significant vector for the spread of Coronavirus in Australia.

6. Agreed that:

- (a) as soon as possible, but no later than 11:59pm AEDT Saturday 28 March 2020, all travellers arriving in Australia will be required to undertake mandatory 14 day self-isolation at designated facilities (for example, a hotel) in the city in which they entered Australia, notwithstanding their state of residence
- (b) travellers will be transported directly to designated facilities after appropriate immigration, customs and enhanced health checks
- (c) designated facilities will be determined by the relevant State or Territory government; while ordinarily they will be in the city of entry where the traveller has cleared immigration, facilities in other areas may be used in extenuating circumstances
- (d) these requirements will be implemented under State and Territory legislation and will be enforced by State and Territory governments, with the support of the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) where necessary and according to need across Australia
- (e) States and Territories would meet the costs (other than for ABF and ADF support) and determine any contributions required from travellers arriving within their jurisdictions.

7. Agreed that the ADF will begin assisting State and Territory governments to undertake quarantine compliance checks of those who are required to be in mandatory isolation after returning from overseas, with enforcement remaining the responsibility of States and Territories.

8. Agreed that the Commonwealth would ensure ABF declaration card information on returning international travellers who reside in jurisdictions other than their city of arrival is provided to the appropriate jurisdiction.

9. Noted:

- (a) the advice provided by all jurisdictions on their current enforcement regimes and activities and agreed the importance of continued strong enforcement of existing social isolation and social distancing measures
- (b) the advice from the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland Chief Health Officers on next step measures.

10. Agreed:

- (a) Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria will develop options for further restrictions to support social distancing and reduce community transmission for consideration at the next meeting
- (b) Western Australia will convene a discussion with Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory to consider options for further restrictions that might be appropriate for jurisdictions with different epidemiological and geographic circumstances
- (c) the importance of ensuring that any further restrictions on business be accompanied by further economic support measures.

11. Noted:

- (a) the further advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee in relation to the supply of intensive care unit (ICU) beds nation-wide and surge capacity (including related equipment, consumables and workforce)
- (b) the CMO's advice that ICU surge capacity is likely to meet predicted need.

12. Agreed that a paper setting out principles and protocols for the allocation and sharing of critical medical supplies be provided to the National Cabinet for consideration at its next meeting.

13. Agreed the statement on schools.

14. Agreed that States and Territories urgently finalise arrangements with private hospitals under the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement and report on outcomes at the National Cabinet meeting on 29 March 2020.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 1

Sunday 29 March 2020

3PM to 6PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO		RESPONSIBLE
1.	Strategic Update <i>(Other SM20/0324 refers)</i>	Prime Minister
2.	Economic Issues	
(a)	Update on Third Economic Package <i>(Oral Update SM20/0330)</i>	Prime Minister
(b)	Commercial and Residential Tenancies <i>(Other SM20/0332 refers)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
3.	Health Issues	
(a)	Coronavirus Update <i>(Other SM20/0328 refers)</i>	Dr Murphy
(b)	Returning Travellers - Implementation Update <i>(Oral Update SM20/0327)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
(c)	Defining Further Restrictions <i>(Other SM20/0326 refers)</i>	Premier New South Wales Premier Victoria Premier Queensland
(d)	Protocols on Allocating Critical Medical Supplies <i>(Short-form Cabinet Paper SM20/0325 refers)</i>	Dr Murphy
4.	Other Business <i>(Oral Update SM20/0329)</i>	

Exposure Draft Due : 29 March 2020

Coordination Final Due : 29 March 2020

Final Due : 29 March 2020
**Coordination Final
Short Form Papers Due** : 29 March 2020
**Final Short Form
Papers Due** : 29 March 2020
Issued at : 28 Mar 2020 03:19PM

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/4
29 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ("National Cabinet"):

1. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on:
 - (a) the successful implementation by jurisdictions, supported by the Commonwealth, of the compulsory quarantine arrangements for returning travellers
 - (b) the \$1.1 billion Commonwealth package announced that day to support more mental health, Medicare, domestic violence and relief services
 - (c) progress on the development of the third tranche of the Commonwealth Coronavirus Support Package.
2. Agreed to a moratorium on evictions over the next six months for commercial and residential tenants in financial distress who are unable to meet their commitments owing to the impact of the Coronavirus.
3. Agreed interventions to aid commercial tenancies would include the following common characteristics, as endorsed by Treasurers:
 - (a) a mechanism (or definition) to determine rental distress
 - (b) tenants and landlords are to be encouraged to agree on rent relief or temporary amendments to the lease

- (c) the reduction or waiver of rental payments for a defined period for impacted tenants
 - (d) the ability for tenants to terminate leases and/or seek mediation or conciliation on the grounds of financial distress
 - (e) commercial property owners to ensure that any benefits received in respect of their properties should also benefit their tenants in proportion to the economic impact caused by Coronavirus
 - (f) landlords and tenants not significantly affected by Coronavirus are expected to honour their lease and rental agreements
 - (g) cost-sharing or deferral of losses between landlords and tenants, with Commonwealth, state and territory governments, local government and financial institutions to consider mechanisms to provide assistance.
4. Also agreed that the final arrangements should be based on two underlying principles:
- (a) hibernation
 - (b) shared pain, including for tenants, landlord and banks.
5. Agreed that State and Territory Treasurers come back as soon as possible with standard documentation to facilitate a common approach to negotiations between landlords, tenants and the banks, to minimise legal and other advisory costs.
6. Agreed that States and Territories develop and implement appropriate, targeted interventions in commercial rental markets according to these principles and provide a progress report to National Cabinet on implementation as soon as possible.
7. Agreed that the Commonwealth would lead negotiations with financial institutions.
8. Agreed that further work be undertaken by Treasurers on residential tenancies.
9. Agreed, based on advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, that strong advice be provided to older Australians to self-isolate at home to the maximum extent practicable, with this advice to apply to:
- (a) those aged 70 years and over

- (b) those aged 60 years and over with existing health conditions or comorbidities
- (c) Indigenous Australians over the age of 50 years with existing health conditions or comorbidities.

10. Agreed to issue strong guidance to all Australians to stay at home unless for:

- (a) shopping for food, essential supplies and absolute necessities
- (b) medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements
- (c) exercise, in compliance with social gathering restrictions
- (d) work and education, for anyone who cannot work or learn remotely.

11. Agreed to an enforceable national limit for both indoor and outdoor gatherings of no more than 10 people and strongly advised limiting gatherings to no more than 2 persons (other than for members of the same household), with individual jurisdictions choosing whether to mandate and enforce the lower level.

12. Agreed to maintain the current restrictions on funerals (maximum 10 people) and weddings (maximum of 5 people).

13. Agreed to close playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gyms, discourage jogging/running/cycling in groups and reduce bootcamps to two persons including the trainer.

14. Commenced consideration of further restrictions to commercial enterprises to minimise the risk of community transmission and agreed to meet on 30 March to consider the advice of State and Territory Chief Medical Officers to enable individual jurisdictions to adopt a more flexible approach.

15. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister and the States and Territories with respect to private hospital negotiations.

16. Noted the principles for the distribution of crucial medical supplies from the National Medical Stockpile and agreed the Commonwealth will provide further detailed advice on the level of medical supplies potentially available to States and Territories from Commonwealth stocks.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 5

Monday 30 March 2020

6PM to 9PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

NO		RESPONSIBLE
1.	Strategic Update (Oral Update SM20/0350)	Prime Minister
2.	Economic Issues:	
	(a) Coronavirus Support Package – Tranche Three (Oral Update)	Prime Minister
3.	Health Issues:	
	(a) Coronavirus Update (Oral Update SM20/0347)	Dr Murphy
	(b) Further Restrictions to Support Social Distancing and Reduce Community Transmission (Oral Update SM20/0346)	Premiers and Chief Ministers Dr Murphy
	(c) Vulnerable People in Workplaces (AHPPC Paper)	Dr Murphy
4.	Other Business (Oral Update SM20/0345)	

Exposure Draft Due : 05 March 2020
Coordination Final Due : 20 March 2020
Final Due : 24 March 2020
Issued at : 30 Mar 2020 05:52PM



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/5
30 March 2020

THIS DOCUMENT HAS A LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

CABINET MINUTE
NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

1. Noted:

- (a) the oral update by the Prime Minister on the Commonwealth's JobKeeper package
- (b) the oral update by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury on the economic outlook and his advice that the medium and long-term financial risks of the package are manageable.

2. Endorsed the Commonwealth's JobKeeper package and urged its passage through the Commonwealth Parliament to provide much needed financial support to the Australian economy.

3. Noted:

- (a) the oral update by the Chief Medical Officer on the latest COVID-19 data
- (b) that while the epidemiology curve is flattening it is too early to determine whether the trend is significant or sustained.

4. Agreed that having established a baseline for social distancing and business restrictions, and recognising the different challenges and circumstances of each jurisdiction, the advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal

Committee (AHPPC) on the application of regional additional social distancing measures be adopted.

5. Adopted the recommendations of the AHPPC for managing vulnerable workers, noting the change in risk cohort advice which now applies to those aged 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions (rather than those aged 60 years and older with chronic medical conditions as previously advised).

6. Agreed the following clarifications to the current restrictions on social distancing and on quarantine arrangements:

- (a) international flight crew be granted a concession from the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirements for individuals arriving in Australia. This is in recognition of their extensive training in infection prevention and control and use of personal protective equipment, whereby the risk from these individuals is considered to be lower than other international travellers. Air crew will continue to practise social distancing, cough etiquette and hand hygiene as required of the Australian public more broadly
- (b) maritime crew be granted a concession from the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirements. These crew members already practise self-quarantine on arrival in Australia and between movements in and out of the country. These arrangements should continue to apply, and as with air crew, maritime crew will continue to practise social distancing, cough etiquette and hand hygiene as required of any Australian
- (c) truck stops can remain open with social distancing and hygiene measures being observed by occupants in place and, where necessary, state and territory governments will enable exemptions under existing public health orders
- (d) 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 at-risk individuals to self-isolate (for 14 days) at home - including for minors or those with medical conditions, such as those returning to Australia from the Medical Treatment Overseas Program.

7. Agreed the next meeting consider:

- (a) the childcare and early childhood education sector
- (b) concrete proposals from Treasurers on both commercial and residential tenancies.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA VERSION 2

Friday 03 April 2020

10AM to 12PM

Canberra - Parliament House (ACT)

NO	RESPONSIBLE
1. Strategic Update	
2. Health Issues:	
(a) Coronavirus Update <i>(Other SM20/0381 refers)</i>	Dr Murphy
(b) National COVID-19 Testing Capacity <i>(Oral Update SM20/0384)</i>	Dr Murphy
(c) Public Presentation of COVID-19 Data - Come Back <i>(Paper)</i>	Dr Murphy
(d) Options For Reducing ICU Bed Demand From Non COVID-19 Cases <i>(Paper)</i>	Dr Murphy
3. Economic Issues	
(a) Commercial and Residential Tenancies <i>(Paper)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
(b) Support to Childcare Sector <i>(Commonwealth Paper; State/Territory Paper to be circulated)</i>	Prime Minister Premiers and Chief Ministers
4. Other Business <i>(Other SM20/0387 refers)</i>	Mr Morrison

Exposure Draft Due : 12 March 2020

Coordination Final Due : 26 March 2020

Final Due : 30 March 2020

Issued at

: 03 Apr 2020 09:28AM

AAT 2022/5550



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/6

03 April 2020

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
--------------------	------------------	---------------------------

The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response:

1. Noted:
 - (a) the oral update by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) on the latest epidemiological data, including the growth in locally acquired cases where the contact has not been identified
 - (b) the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) paper on national COVID-19 testing capacity and the CMO's advice on the current precarious nature of supply and the need to broaden testing criteria judiciously
 - (c) the oral update by the Prime Minister and the CMO on preliminary health system capacity modelling which recognised stricter social distancing.
2. Agreed to consider final updated modelling at the next meeting on 7 April 2020, with the modelling to be provided to all jurisdictions the day before.
3. Noted Australia is now in the suppression phase of the response, which will last for some time, and that restrictions in place would be reviewed regularly against the national baseline and epidemiological outcomes.
4. Agreed the Commonwealth come back with a proposed schedule and process to support National Cabinet's regular review of the baseline restrictions and economic supports in place to ensure that they remain appropriate as circumstances evolve.

5. Agreed the need to establish a clear plan and narrative on for the health and economic management of the COVID-19 outbreak in the short, medium and long term which recognises a progression from suppression to emergence and then recovery from the virus event and its economic impacts.

6. Agreed:

- (a) the AHPPC, in consultation with education experts, prepare more prescriptive advice on the approach to, and management of, COVID-19 in the education sector for consideration at the 9 April 2020 meeting
- (b) Education Ministers, led by the Commonwealth Education Minister, provide advice on future school-based and online learning arrangements for the remainder of the school year and the implications of that advice for the future (bringing forward the requested comeback from the 25 March 2020 meeting).

7. Agreed to publicly release:

- (a) the Coronavirus COVID-19 in Australia dashboard at 4pm AEST daily, including data on cases, deaths, hospitalisations and tests by jurisdiction, with an accompanying one-page official analysis
- (b) the Commonwealth Department of Health national heat map showing the geographic distribution of COVID-19 active cases.

8. Noted the AHPPC paper on options for reducing ICU bed demand from non-COVID-19 cases and agreed not to publish this advice.

9. Reaffirmed the decision for a six-month moratorium on evictions for residential tenants in financial distress and agreed that further work be undertaken by the States and Territories on this issue for future National Cabinet consideration.

10. Considered the paper from the Board of Treasurers on commercial leases and agreed:

- (a) it did not go far enough in providing concrete measures for implementation

- (b) a mandatory code of conduct guided by agreed principles be developed and subsequently legislated, if required, by State and Territory Governments to apply to tenancy agreements, where:
 - (i) the tenant is eligible for the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper assistance and
 - (ii) is a small- or medium-sized enterprise (less than \$50 million turnover)

with the proposed code of conduct to be brought forward by the Commonwealth for discussion at the 7 April 2020 meeting.

11. Noted:

- (a) the paper on the viability of, and regulatory support for, the early childhood education and care sector, including the funding support announced by the Commonwealth Government and the agreements made by Education Ministers to reduce regulatory burden in the childcare sector in response to COVID-19
- (b) the AHPPC statement on Childcare and Early Learning Centres.

12. Agreed that National Cabinet members, consistent with earlier decisions restricting unnecessary travel, emphasise that Australians should stay at home this Easter.

13. Agreed that places of worship, when live-streaming religious services, be treated as workplaces and further requirements be applied by States and Territories.

14. Agreed the Commonwealth circulate the amended National Partnership Agreement on COVID-19 to States and Territories for their expeditious consideration.

15. Noted the JobKeeper package does not apply to local government and that States and Territories will work to support local governments as appropriate.

16. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on proposals to enable agricultural producers to retain their overseas workforce, subject to:

- (a) strict enforcement of employers requiring such workers to self-isolate for fourteen days before commencing work and
- (b) strict adherence to public health measures, including social distancing on farms and in private accommodation.

17. Agreed the Prime Minister come back to the next meeting of the National Cabinet with further detail on these proposed arrangements.

18. Agreed the CMO come back with advice on actions taken by Japan and South Korea in their responses to restraining COVID-19 infections.

19. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on critical international air passenger services which will operate over the next four weeks from Peru, Argentina and South Africa and that the Commonwealth will support flights for four weeks from London, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Auckland to bring Australians home and facilitate essential airfreight.

20. Agreed the CMO come back to the next meeting with AHPPC statements for noting on the following issues:

- (a) point of care serology testing
- (b) off-label use of drugs to manage COVID-19
- (c) PPE for health care workers
- (d) home isolation guidelines.

21. Agreed that future National Cabinet meetings would:

- (a) next be scheduled on Tuesday 7 April and Thursday 9 April 2020
- (b) thereafter be held on Tuesday and Friday mornings, with other meetings scheduled if the need arises.

Cabinet Secretary