



17 September 2020

### **NATSIHWA COVID-19 Update**

The situation with COVID-19 remains relatively stable across Australia. In Victoria, case numbers continue to decline. For the first time in months, daily case numbers have been below 50 all week and some restrictions have been relaxed in regional areas. If you are living in Victoria more information about the easing of restrictions can be found [here](#).

New South Wales and Queensland are still registering a small number of cases each day while remaining States and Territories continue to register no outbreaks or community transmission.

The following provides an overview of the highlights from today's National Cabinet meeting. The Prime Minister advised that Australia is making good progress in regards to managing both the health and economic consequences of the virus. While significant effort has gone in to containing the spread of COVID-19, testing rates have dropped over recent weeks and all States and Territories have agreed a renewed focus on testing.

New South Wales has been leading the way in terms of its contact tracing regime and all States and Territories have agreed to strengthen their contact tracing processes based on the New South Wales model. The Commonwealth has agreed to support national contact tracing efforts by providing digital overlay to connect all state and territory contact tracing systems.

Getting Australians home from overseas remained a focus with National Cabinet agreeing to increase international arrivals, noting that Australian Defense Force support will be provided to assist with the increased quarantine requirements. Arrangements to support quarantine free travel between Australia and New Zealand are also being explored.

Even though case numbers remain low everyone across Australia is being urged to remain vigilant and to continue social distancing and good hygiene practices.

Thanks again for the work that you do and please stay safe.

The NATSIHWA Team