



23 October 2020

## COVID-19 Update

The National Cabinet met today for the first time in 5 weeks. The Chief Medical Officer provided an overview of the status of COVID-19 across Australia and advised that there have been a total of 27,476 cases to date, 905 deaths, just over 200 cases currently active with 19 people in hospital and nobody in intensive care and no new aged care cases since 28 September 2020. After a long lockdown period the spread of COVID-19 in Victoria has reduced substantially with daily average cases for the past fortnight sitting around 5.5 in Melbourne and it is anticipated that the Premier will announce a further easing of restrictions on Sunday. If you are living in Victoria up to date information in regards to restrictions can be found [here](#).

Following the meeting the Prime Minister advised that most States and Territories had agreed "*in principle*" to develop a plan to allow people to travel freely between States and Territories (with the exception of Western Australia) by the Christmas holiday period. The plan will not only include the opening of the various activities within our economy but also include measures to ensure the public health system can effectively manage outbreaks supported through a national contact tracing capability.

Getting Australians home from overseas remained a focus with National Cabinet agreeing to further increases in international arrivals. The recommendations of the hotel quarantine review were also agreed noting that other quarantining measures such as on campus for international students and on farms for overseas workers are also under consideration.

In other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander news, after a lengthy engagement and consultation process an interim report on a Voice for Indigenous Australians was handed to Minister Wyatt for consideration today. The report includes a range of contested models, options and recommendations for consideration. Although this marks the completion of the first stage of the process public consultations on the Voice are expected to run until March. More information about the Voice for Indigenous Australians can be found at: <https://voice.niaa.gov.au/>.

Even though COVID-19 case numbers remain low everyone please remain vigilant and continue to physical distance and practices good hygiene.

Thanks again for the work that you do. Stay safe.

The NATSIHWA Team

