



27 March, 2020

### **From the Office of Scott Buchholz MP....**

Earlier this week, the Prime Minister announced the formation of the National Coronavirus Coordination Commission, which I welcomed.

Today, the National Cabinet met again to discuss the ongoing coronavirus crisis and consider further action.

There are more than 3,000 confirmed cases in Australia and sadly 13 people have died. Of the newly reported cases in the last week, the majority have been from New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

As a result, the Prime Minister has announced further action we're taking to **#stopthespread** and save lives.

You can watch the full press conference HERE, however I have summarised this for you in the next article.

These are not decisions being taken lightly. These decisions have significant impacts on Australians, on families, businesses and the economy.

### **YOU can help still help, by:**

- ✓ Being at least 1.5 metres away from everyone, whenever this is possible.
- ✓ Wash your hands, do it often and do it properly for at least 20 seconds.
- ✓ Cough or sneeze into your elbow (or tissue and dispose of it) and not your hands.
- ✓ Don't touch your face at all, even if it itches.
- ✓ If you're sick, stay at home
- ✓ Limit all non-essential travel

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Buchholz'.

**Scott Buchholz MP -Federal Member for Wright**

## **THE LATEST ACTION TO PROTECT AUSTRALIANS**

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, to help Australia to keep functioning and to keep Australians in jobs.

National Cabinet noted that **the vast majority (around 85%)** of cases in Australia **remain overseas acquired** or locally acquired contacts of a confirmed case.

In order to help drive down this concerning number of imported cases, National Cabinet has agreed to take action to **further restrict the movement of incoming travellers** (returning Australians) and to **increase compliance checks on travellers who are already undertaking their mandatory self-isolation** period at home.

### **National Cabinet agreed that:**

- As soon as possible, but no later than 11:59pm Saturday 28 March 2020, all travellers arriving in Australia will be required to undertake their mandatory 14 day self-isolation at designated facilities (for example, a hotel).
- Travellers will be transported directly to designated facilities after appropriate immigration, customs and enhanced health checks.
- Designated facilities will be determined by the relevant state or territory government and will ordinarily be in the city of entry where the traveller has cleared immigration, but facilities in other areas may be used if required.
- 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 Defence Force (ADF) and the Australian Border Force (ABF) where necessary.
- The Commonwealth will provide support through the ABF and ADF for these arrangements across Australia, and that states and territories would meet the costs and determine any contributions required for travellers arriving within their jurisdictions.
- Air and maritime crews will be required to continue to undertake the existing precautions they are following where they self-isolate in their accommodation if they enter Australia until their next work voyage.
- The Australian Defence Force 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.
- ADF personnel will bolster local police efforts in visiting the homes and residences of Australians who are in mandatory isolation as directed by state and territory governments and will report to the local police whether the identified individual was at the residence.

ADF assistance will be provided under the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community arrangements.

These new requirements will build on the existing support the Australian Defence Force is providing to the COVID-19 response.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

We need every Australian to do their bit and understand how serious this health crisis is.

Australians should follow these simple actions to stop the spread of coronavirus:

- Be at least 1.5 metres away from everyone and don't gather with others
- If you're sick, stay at home
- Wash your hands and do it often
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow and not your 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

These measures will help us all to stop the spread of this virus and protect lives. Staying away from others is not the Australian way of life but it's essential to our future and how we overcome coronavirus.

[www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au) for more



## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION, RESOURCES & HOTLINE

A **24/7 National Coronavirus Health Information Line** is available on **1800 020 080**. The line provides health and situation information on the outbreak

### How you can stop the spread and stay healthy.

Find out what you can do, to help keep your community safe and stop the spread of Coronavirus.

There is a range of resources [HERE](#).

#### HELP STOP THE SPREAD

A national campaign has launched to inform all Australians about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how we can help stop the spread. By slowing the spread, we can improve hospital capacity and help save lives.

[Read more](#)

#### NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

The Government's \$2.4 billion health package is about protecting Australians from COVID-19. Temporary MBS telehealth items allow health professionals to deliver essential services to patients at risk.

[Read more](#)

#### Coronavirus information and support for business

Find financial assistance, eligibility and timing for the new government support for Australian businesses. We'll be updating this page as new information is available.

[Read more](#)

#### To all of those on the frontline

From Doctors and nurses, to retail workers, pharmacists, truck drivers, teachers, child care workers, volunteers, hospital staff, cleaners and everybody else pitching in.

[Read more](#)