

Summary of the Premiers Update

Happy Easter everyone,

The headlines from today's press conference:

- Overall we are doing the right thing but there are a number who aren't. We have to work together. **The next five days are critical.**
- Over the Easter break the police helicopter will be deployed and there will be extra police presence on the roads across the state (but with a focus on shack communities).
- The numbers today:

We now have 107 cases of the virus with nine new cases overnight. Eight of these are in the NW.

There are 23 cases related to the NW outbreak.

A total of 48 cases have recovered.

- Additional health staff (Dr's, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals) are ready to be deployed if needed and additional recruitment is underway.
- The threshold for testing has been lowered over the last few days to support the contact tracing efforts. This does mean cases are being detected earlier.
- There are a lot of additional resources being directed to the NW and many health and medical services are playing different roles. If people need urgent medical help they should call **000**. If people are concerned about their exposure to the virus they should call the **Public Health Hotline 1800 671 738**.
- The State Government will introduce legislation in May to keep the current sitting members (Legislative Council) in place until later this year (as elections have been postponed).

Please see attached some key messages about the Social and Economic Support Package (aka the additional \$20,000). Please share this with your staff, volunteers and Board members. Each House will receive a Deed of Variation after the Easter break. Thanks for your patience and please keep sending any questions etc through.

Have a safe and restful break.

The NHT Team

Key messages for Neighbourhood Houses about the additional \$20,000. Essentially Community Community matters. And never more than now. The qualities of kindness, deep community engagement and resourcefulness that characterise the Neighbourhood House network have



immediately come to the fore to assist our communities. Additional \$700,000 to the Network The Tasmanian Government recognises that Neighbourhood Houses provide essential voluntary community programs such as food distribution, food relief and NILS loans, and the need for these to continue during this time. Additional funding of \$700,000 has been allocated to the Network to support ongoing community development work during the pandemic response as part of the Premier's Social and Economic Support Package. This means each of our 35 Neighbourhood Houses will receive an additional \$20,000 to support their communities. There is no additional reporting or activity requirements for these funds. Communities Tasmania is working to get this money to you quickly and House managers can expect to receive a Deed of Variation for signing and returning to the Department soon. This funding can be used to add capacity to Houses to meet the needs of their local communities with a focus on connection, information resourcing, wellbeing and community resilience. Disruption is not destruction of our good plans The current physical distancing requirements are a new thing for communities. While these measures are in place to protect public health Houses will still continue to provide trusted community connections and support – in other words, maintain social connections. The disruption that is COVID-19 has changed 'business as usual'. For instance:

- Priority areas may have shifted.
- The types of contact you have with community members may look different.
- The way Boards meet and deliver governance leadership will need to adapt.

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Boards of Governance – the leaders your community needs during this crisis

Organisationally there continues to be a need for strong community governance during this time. The strength of numbers, skills and experience embedded in our governance structures will continue to be a necessary resource to be leaders and serve the local community. Some practical considerations are:

- The role of Boards currently is critical: more than ever their contribution, skills, experience and leadership are needed, as well as sharing the accountability with Managers for decision making and ensuring the voice of community continues to be heard.
- Boards may need to look, meet and function differently: organisational documents such as strategic plans and policies may need to be reviewed and updated to address the current exceptional circumstances. For example: Constitutions might not include meeting through electronic means, so Board approved policy to address this may be needed
- Safety and Health: the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers remains the responsibility of Boards and is crucial now. NHT is here to support Houses and their Boards to ensure good governance. We are refining our governance resources to meet the needs of members during this time. Let's think big for a happy, thriving community.
- Focus on core business and innovative ways to deliver outcomes
- Remember: the Neighbourhood House Program goals are still useful to assist with decision making. Connect Community, Support People, Create Opportunity, and Local Leadership
- Work collaboratively, share resources and be open to new ideas and ways of working
- Remain focused on community connection, be creative, ask what will help people?
- Continue to address community need – but remember we cannot be everything to everyone
- Define what we don't do and inform your communities
- Keep people in community connected via regular updates. This could be a regular live stream, newsletters and emails, virtual events, as well as low-tech options. Trusted, Accurate Information As community leaders Houses can play a role in ensuring the community is aware of where to get accurate public health advice and information on preventing COVID-19. Also, info about the social supports available for people impacted by COVID-19. Houses can empower people to gain their own access to the best information; support conversations about safety and managing challenges; to encourage everyone to do their bit to achieve the goal of 'flattening the curve'.
- The Tasmanian Government will continue to have the most recent public health advice and pandemic response information at <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>
- The Australian Government provides national information at <https://www.australia.gov.au/>

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ABC is the official emergency broadcaster. In Tasmania, ABC local radio and its associated webpages and official social media, provide updated local news and discussions on community relevant topics. The dangers of unofficial information during these times include inaccuracy, potentially dangerous and unnecessarily alarming messages which can lead to panic, fear and a lack of social cohesion. Misinformation will not promote knowledgeable people and a capable and empowered community. Thank you Houses have broad experience in understanding and meeting the needs of their



**Neighbourhood Houses
Tasmania**

communities and the people who live in them and make them great. During this time your skills and sensitivities will provide a backbone of strength, being trusted voices in your respective communities. Remember: Soft front. Strong back. Open heart. These shared messages of support have been developed by Com