



COVID-19 Sector Update 30 March

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Stay home, if you can

Amid all of the changing restrictions and the deluge of announcements and updates, five words have emerged that best sum up what we should all do now: *stay home, if you can*. If you have to work and can't work from home, or have to shop, or exercise, that's okay, but for now, we can all pull in the right direction together by staying home, if we can.

Read the latest statement from the Chief Minister [here](#).

\$5 million NT Worker and Wellbeing Fund

The NT Government today announced \$5 million to:

- Help people access the range of wellbeing and other counselling or support services that are available
- Help people navigate the welfare system and access income and any other financial support available
- Help workers who have lost their job find new employment opportunities fast –such as guiding people to job matching services like the Territory Jobs Hub
- Assisting Territorians who require access to accommodation and other essentials

The fund will target new Centrelink recipients to link them to wellbeing services and more details will be announced on 3 April 2020.

Australian Government commits \$1.1bn to health services: what does it mean for the Territory?

Telehealth: \$669 million to expand Medicare-subsidised telehealth services so people can access health services such as GPs, mental health services and counselling via telephone or video conferencing services. Delivered properly and taking into account specific community needs, this could be a huge boost to the Territory with our decentralised population.

Domestic, family and sexual violence: \$150 million for counselling support and services and support programs. Governments are meeting through COAG this week to discuss how to

distribute to states and territories and we will advise when we know more.

Mental health support: \$74 million to support mental health of all Australians.

Visit www.headtohealth.gov.au to find a comprehensive resource list.

Emergency Relief Services: \$200 million to charities and community services organisations for vulnerable Australians who need assistance with bills, food, clothing, petrol and other essential items.

We will be working with the community sector, the NT Government and the Australian Government to find out as many details as possible about these announcements and will continue to update via these sector updates, member alerts, teleconferences, meetings and one-on-one conversations. If you have any questions, please email us any time at admin@ntcoss.org.au.

Full announcement [here](#).

Changes to income support

On Sunday the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister flagged two significant changes that will be coming this week, with more updates provided on Monday:

1. **Changes to the partner income test for Jobseeker benefits:** Currently, if your partner earns more than \$48,100 a year and you lose your job, you are not eligible for the Jobseeker payment. The Government has flagged that there is potential for the \$48,100 threshold to increase.
2. **Wage subsidies:** Businesses will be given an amount per worker to try to retain staff through the worst of the crisis. Full details will be announced over the coming week.

Moratorium on rental evictions due to financial distress

The Prime Minister announced that there will be a six month moratorium on rental evictions, with 'tenants and landlords needing to work together.' More detail will follow over the week as states and territories work to put together the details of exactly how it will work and how people can access resources and assistance.

New information tool: Coronavirus Australia app and Whatsapp feature

There is a new Coronavirus Australia app released by the Australian Government. The app gives links to advice, symptoms, news and media and more, with most information sourced from official health.gov.au information we have been directing people towards. It's a very useful go-to tool. You can download it now from the [Apple App Store](#) and on [Google Play](#). The Coronavirus app was launched alongside the Government's new [WhatsApp feature](#). Follow this link to access the same information as the Coronavirus app, but through the message-based platform Whatsapp.

NTCOSS in the news

Opinion: Deborah Di Natale, NTCOSS CEO appeared in the Sunday Territorian over the weekend with an opinion piece highlights the critical role community services will play on the front lines as an essential service during the coronavirus crisis in Australia. She provides the example of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in Central Australia taking the lead in sharing of resources including staff during the crisis. Read it in full [here](#).

Finally, NTCOSS is currently conducting a mapping exercise to support the COVID-19 response by outlining in one central database the programs and services across the social and community sector so we can identify gaps and opportunities. We will be providing updates as we coordinate and complete the exercise.

Deborah Di Natale
NTCOSS CEO

[Click Here for more COVID-19 Advice and Resources](#)

Updates from the Sector & Resources

CALL FOR UPDATES: NT Organisations delivering frontline services

In light of the current situation, NTCOSS recognises that there will be ongoing changes of service delivery and availability for many organisations.

If your organisation is currently operating in a modified way, here are 2 ways that NTCOSS can assist in sharing this information:

- Member organisations can manually update details regarding service delivery in their listing on our [Directory](#). If you require any assistance with this change, email jacob@ntcoss.org.au or admin@ntcoss.org.au.
- NTCOSS is releasing a regular Sector Update on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in lieu of the eBulletin, while there remains a need for more frequent updates. If you would like your change of delivery of services added to the next Sector Update, please email admin@ntcoss.org.au with the relevant details, using the subject line 'CHANGE OF SERVICE DELIVERY – SECTOR UPDATE'.

UPDATE: NTCOSS Darwin and Alice Springs Conference and Board Room Facilities Use

NTCOSS Conference and Board room facilities will not be available for use while social distancing restrictions are in place.

RESOURCE: Referral Form for Support in Self-Isolating

Click [here](#) to download the NT Government created Self-Isolation referral form. This is for

those that need assistance in self-isolating or self-quarantining.

RESOURCE: Australian Government Coronavirus App and Whats App

In an effort to help people stay informed regarding coronavirus and COVID-19, the Australian Government has launched a 'Coronavirus Australia' App, and a Whats App channel.

Download the official government "Coronavirus Australia" app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), or join our [WhatsApp channel](#) on [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

RESOURCE: Consulting Services for NT Human Service Providers

Keogh Bay Consulting would like to support NT human services providers to continue their vital work in protecting the most vulnerable Territorians through this time. They have created a **COVID-19 Organisational Response Plan** template and would like to share with providers to guide their planning.

The plan is a hybrid emergency response/business continuity plan, intended to guide high-level, initial planning to respond to the crisis and plan for service continuity and organisational recovery.

Organisations can also access 4 hours free advice/support from the Business Enterprise Centre to assist with this or other matters (you can ask to work with Keogh Bay Consulting).

For more information contact:

- Business Enterprise Centre NT - phone [08 8923 6133](tel:089236133) or go to the [Business Enterprise Centre NT website](#)
- Chamber of Commerce NT - phone the Hotline on [08 8982 8188](tel:089828188) or go to the [Chamber of Commerce NT website](#)

RESOURCES: Discouraging Travel for Sport

Central Land Council has released resources for download and print aimed at reminding people to limit travel, even for sporting events.

Click [here](#) for the downloadable poster

Click [here](#) for the factsheet

UPDATED SERVICE DELIVERY: CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation wish to advise that in the interest of supporting community wide precautions against the spread of COVID-19, the following changes to our service provision are in place:

- Access to our Head Office at 60 Boulter Road is by appointment only. Please call 1800 894 800 to enquire about access.
 - Intake Assessments are now being conducted by phone. Appointments can still be booked by calling 89224852
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- We have suspended admissions into our residential programs and approved applicants will be placed on a waiting list for when admissions reopen.
- Homelessness Outreach Support services (HOS) have suspended community visiting. To enquire about HOS support please call 89224817. We are still able to assist with housing and homelessness enquiries or requests for support.
- Strong Steps Coolalinga office is **only** providing phone and video assessments and counselling. Please call 89 833 413 to make an appointment.

We may be updating arrangements as new regulations or advice becomes available. Please check in at www.caaps.org.au for updates.

UPDATED SERVICE DELIVERY: Darwin Community Legal Service

At DCLS **Seniors and Disability Rights, Tenants' Advice** and **General Legal Services** are now undertaking all appointments by phone or video link up. In the interest of public health, face-to-face services – including in-house appointments and volunteer clinics – have been cancelled until further notice. Please call (08) 8982 1111 for an appointment.

EVENT: In My Blood It Runs – Virtual Screening

The acclaimed film will be screening Virtual Cinema events between 16-19 April where people will be watching at the same time. Tickets are available [here](#). Or, if people just want to watch the film in your own time without the Q&A, it's now available for rent for a limited time [here](#).

RESOURCE: Banking, COVID-19 and financial hardship

The Australian Banking Association has provided a comprehensive summary of the COVID-19 related offers 21 of Australia's leading banks are offering. Please visit [here](#) or for hardship related relief visit [here](#).

Past eBulletins and COVID-19 Sector Updates

Access past eBulletins here:

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 27 March 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 25 March 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 23 March 2020](#)

NTCOSS is a not for profit, member based, peak body for the social and community services sector in the Northern Territory. We're an advocate for social justice on behalf of people and communities in the NT, who may be affected by poverty and disadvantage.

NTCOSS acknowledges that we work on the land of the First Peoples of the Northern Territory and respect their continuing cultural connections as traditional owners of this country.

Don't forget to check out the NTCOSS website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Submit an item to eBulletin

To contribute notices to our Sector Update, please email your information in the body of an email or as a Word document to admin@ntcoss.org.au

Please ensure your contribution is in line with [NTCOSS guidelines](#) and includes all appropriate dates, times, links and contact details.

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