



COVID-19 Sector Update 9 April

Hi everyone

The sector has really risen to the challenge of COVID-19 to assist those who are the most vulnerable during this pandemic. I have seen collaboration from all organisations assisting where they can and not worrying about stringent eligibility requirements. I have seen housing services developing plans for those sleeping rough, domestic family sexual violence services working on solutions for women who need shelter and child protection and youth services discussing how they can best support families in need.

I really hope some of you can take a breath over Easter and to all those who are providing emergency relief over Easter we are extremely grateful.

May the Easter Bunny be kind and deliver some eggs to each of you.

JobKeeper payment

We are delighted the government has passed this \$130 billion measure which will provide security for millions of Australians as we embark on the tough road ahead.

Many people receiving the JobKeeper payment will be from the not-for-profit sector following tireless advocacy at state, territory and federal level.

There are still some who have missed out. And they are some of Australia's poorest and most vulnerable. Asylum seekers, international students and temporary migrants are just a few of the groups left out of the payment. Along with ACOSS we are advocating for inclusion, along with better supports for all vulnerable people.

Emergency relief funding over Easter

With Easter approaching we have put together a spreadsheet of basic information to assist with emergency relief referrals over the Easter period. We have focused on food and financial assistance and will continue to update this document which is located on our [COVID-19 Community Sector](#) section of the NTCOSS website under additional resources.

Happy Easter break everyone.

Deborah Di Natale
NTCOSS CEO

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

Resources and News from the Sector

Easter and COVID-19 - Advice and Information from the Chief Minister

The Office of the Chief Minister has produced several resources, posters and fact sheets available for download and reading, regarding what to do and not do, and how to do it, this Easter.

- [NT Essential Air services – information on essential air services until April 30, 2020.](#)
- [COVID-19 information on deliveries to remote communities in the Northern Territory](#)
- [Mandatory quarantine costs](#)
- [A reminder to stay home this Easter](#)
- [Easter service message](#)
- [Fact sheet resource industry](#) – Remote travel restriction

Northern Territory stimulus packages – not-for-profit inclusive

\$5 million Worker Wellbeing Fund (Northern Territory). More details can be found by visiting the website [here](#),

\$65 million economic stimulus and \$50 million small business jobs package. More information [here](#).

SURVEY: Feedback on the Raise The Rate Campaign

[This survey](#) is for Raise The Rate campaign supporters to give feedback on our campaign asks, strategy, and tactics, during this extraordinary time.

REPORT: ACOSS & Jobs Australia - Insights on Reducing Long Term Unemployment

As Australia faces a period of high unemployment, Jobs Australia and the Australian Council of Social Service have released a [report](#) showing reform of employment services and commitments from employers will be crucial in reducing long-term unemployment in the recovery period. This report was prepared pre-COVID-19. Read the media release addressing this [here](#).

REPORT: Indigenous Australians and the COVID-19 crisis: Perspectives on public policy

This Topical Issue is a compilation of eight short papers that have been written during the rapid escalation of the Australian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. First Nations people are being, and will continue to be, affected by this crisis in ways that differ from the effects on

other Australians. The pandemic risks exacerbating deep-seated health, social and economic inequities in Australian society, especially the long-standing inequalities between First Nations people and other Australians. Click here to [read](#) more.

UPDATE: Extension for Annual Information Statement (AIS)

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has granted charity reporting extensions to assist charities affected by the COVID-19 crisis. To reduce the administrative burden on charities in this uncertain time, the Commissioner has approved blanket extensions to charities whose 2019 Annual Information Statement (AIS) is due between 12 March and 30 August 2020. These charities will now need to submit their AIS by 31 August 2020. This advice will be monitored as the COVID-19 crisis progresses. Eligible charities will have their AIS due date updated on the ACNC Charity Register. [More information](#).

RESOURCE: Catholic Care NT Youth and Mental Health Service (YaMHS).

YaMHS is a youth enhanced mental health service, funded through the Northern Territory Primary Health Network (PHN) under the Strengthening Mental Health in Australia policy. The service is funded to work with young people aged between 12 to 25 years. Please [click here](#) to read further about who is encouraged to access this service, and what the service provides. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all sessions are via phone or video calls.

RESOURCE: JobKeeper Stimulus details Fact Sheet

The Australian Government has released an important update and [fact sheet for the JobKeeper Stimulus](#). It provides greater depth of information on what the JobKeeper Stimulus comprises of, and what you should do to access it.

RESOURCES: Australian Childhood Foundation Booklets and Infographics

The Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) has produced a range of booklets and infographics to help children and young people understand the impacts of Coronavirus on their everyday life, in addition to ways for young people to maintain their mental health at this time. The ACF will continue to develop more resources, so watch this space or visit the [website](#).

Click [here to download](#) a poster about staying connected with children during coronavirus

Click [here to download](#) a picture-book style booklet helping kids understand coronavirus.

Click [here to download](#) an infographic developed to help young people reframe unhelpful thoughts.

Click [here to download](#) an infographic designed to help young people develop tools for maintaining their mental health.

Click [here to read](#) an opinion piece by ACF CEO, Joe Tucci.

RESOURCES: Jobs Australia

Jobs Australia Community Sector Workplace Relations specialist are still available to assist by providing high-quality advice and resources to ensure you have the support you need for any issue related to being an employer. Jobs Australia aim is to give you peace of mind when dealing with the challenges you face and easy access to the right information at the right time. Visit the [Jobs Australia website](#) for up to date information in regards to the COVID-19 crisis.

RESOURCE: Canva Graphic Design

Canva, a free graphic design platform that allows users to create social media graphics, presentations, posters and other visual content has created Coronavirus poster, Instagram and Facebook posts templates – see [here](#).

RESOURCE: Maningrida Sport and Recreation Team Video

Maningrida Sport and Rec team have created a great video with young people from the community about Coronavirus and community transmission and how to safe. Have a look at the ‘Coronatime’ Facebook video [here](#).

RESOURCE: Parentline Hotline, Email and WebChat

[Parentline](#) is open 8am-10pm, 7 days a week. Parentline can be a safety-net for families by providing support when it’s most needed including after hours, weekends, where families may feel isolated and local services are unavailable. Parentline offers free confidential phone and [WebChat](#) counselling and support for parents and carers of children in Queensland and the Northern Territory. For the Hotline, dial 1300 30 1300 or visit parentline.com.au.

RESOURCE: Supporting Families in Remote Communities as Youth Workers

Visit CAYLUS’ [website](#) to read ‘Supporting families in remote communities to respond to COVID-19’. This publication shares some ideas about COVID-19 prevention actions that youth workers could support under recent restrictions introduced in the NT.

RESOURCES: Printable COVID-19 Signs from CAAC and other Barkly Region specific resources

The CAAC and the NT Government have provided several resources in regards to spreading public health information and informing residents during this time.

Please [click here](#) to download and print COVID-19 flyers and signs encouraging people to quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please click [here](#) to download a poster advertising the Congress COVID-19 Hotline.

Please click [here](#) for a FactSheet compiled by the NTG regarding food security in the region.

Please click [here](#) for a poster containing updated Return to Country information

Please click [here](#) for a poster listing important hotlines and phone numbers for the region.

In addition, the Barkly Regional Council has set up a separate [hotline](#) that residents can subscribe to in order to receive regular, live COVID-19 updates.

RESOURCE: NT Seniors Card

NT Seniors Card is available for all permanent residents 60 years and over and provides members with business discounts, free bus travel and a discount on annual car registration. NT Seniors Card can also be used as identification for the purposes of early shopping hours at Woolworths and Priority Assistance registrations. Territory seniors can apply for a card [online](#), or with an application form from electoral offices, local councils or Territory Families shopfronts or by calling 1800 441 489.

Change of Service Delivery - Territory Wide

Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council

Over the past week NTAHC has been trialing working remotely while continuing to offer essential services such as [NSP](#), SWOP outreach and Care and Support. We have decided that

moving forward we will continue to operate in this way until we receive advice from Government that the threat of COVID-19 has passed. This decision is made to ensure we continue to protect staff and clients while also doing everything we can to support people affected by COVID-19 in the community. We will update our social media and website to ensure information is timely and accurate but if you are worried or have questions please don't hesitate to [contact](#) one of the NTAHC offices in Darwin, Alice Springs or Palmerston.

Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT - Change of Service Delivery & Resources

Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT continue to operate during the COVID-19 Coronavirus. The wellbeing of all our foster and kinship carers and my team is our highest priority, therefore, a decision has been made to cancel all face to face training and events **until further notice**. Due to these restrictions we will negotiate with our online training partners to secure additional positions on online courses to continue to support the professional development of our carers. Our Carer Support Officers, Izzy and Martin are available for further information. Other restrictions now require the team to work remotely from our office however, we all continue to be available to assist carers with ongoing support, training and advocacy needs. It is "business as per our new usual" so contact the team on 1300 030 928 or via email info@fkca.org.au.

The Association has also compiled several resources to help their members navigate this time:

Click [here](#) for concise advice regarding keeping kids learning.

Click [here](#) for tips about talking to kids about coronavirus.

Click [here](#) for a kid-friendly poster about coronavirus.

Click [here](#) for a list of FAQs compiled by the Association.

Click [here](#) to download a Carer's Authority to Provide Consent form

Mental Illness Fellowship of the Northern Territory

MIFANT is still open and assisting clients in this difficult and uncertain time. MIFANT programs – the MiTrack program and the Carers Program – are still operational and are open for new referrals, should anyone be seeking assistance. In order to adhere to the current government recommendations and restrictions MIFANT have made the following changes:

- We are attempting to limit consults to phone, email or Zoom, however we are able to safely see carers and young people face-to-face by appointment. This contact must be limited to one person at a time and social distancing **MUST** be adhered to.
- We will not be providing transport to clients or carers.
- The MIFANT website has online forums for carers to engage

The MIFANT office has also implemented strict hygiene measures that align with the current government recommendations and all staff have completed the "Supporting People to Stay Infection Free" training. Please be assured that MIFANT will continue to provide support to those who are most vulnerable within our community. If you would like further information on any of our programs, would like to request a referral form or you otherwise just need someone to reach out to, please call (08) 8953 1467 or visit the MIFANT [website](#).

Change of Service Delivery - Top End

Top End Women's Legal Service

TEWLS continues to provide legal and related services to women of the Top End.

Whilst our office is closed for personal attendance, appointments are continuing by phone,

Skype and email correspondence. To make an appointment with TEWLS, please call our office on (08) 8982 3000 or email to admin@tewls.org.au

Past eBulletins and COVID-19 Sector Updates

Access past eBulletins here:

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Worker's Wellbeing eBulletin 6 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 2 April 2020](#)

[NTCOSS COVID-19 Sector Update 30 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.

NTCOSS thanks HESTA for their ongoing support of this publication



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Our mailing address is:

admin@ntcoss.org.au

PO Box 1128 Nightcliff NT 0814

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