

Summary of significant policy announcements and operational developments up to 8 May 2020

Please note, the table below was compiled in a short period of time and is not exhaustive of all Australian Government policy announcements or operational developments. Please read this in conjunction with other evidence provided to the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 and information publically available on Australian Government websites.

No.	Initiative	Date announced	Description	Relevant Agencies
1	National Incident Room activated	20-Jan-20	The National Incident Room (NIR) activated to coordinate the health sector emergency response to COVID-19 under the direction of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).	Department of Health
2	Travel advice for Wuhan raised to level 2 'exercise a high degree of caution'	21-Jan-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3	'Human coronavirus with pandemic potential' added as a Listed Human Disease under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>	21-Jan-20	'Human coronavirus with pandemic potential' added as a Listed Human Disease under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , enabling the use of enhanced biosecurity measures.	Department of Health
4	Travel advice for Wuhan and Hubei province raised to level 3 'reconsider your need to travel'	23-Jan-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
5	Enhanced border measures commence at international ports	23-Jan-20	Enhanced border measures applied at international ports including enhanced ill traveller screening, pre-recorded announcements and electronic signage.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force
6	Department of Health first issues guidance on COVID-19 for a range of audiences	24-Jan-20	The Department of Health issued fact sheets on COVID-19 in various languages and for a range of audiences (e.g. schools, childcare, airports, health workers etc.)	Department of Health
7	First confirmed case of COVID-19 in Australia	25-Jan-20	First case of COVID-19 in Australia confirmed by Victorian health authorities.	Department of Health
8	Australian Border Force - Operation PINCER	25-Jan-20	Operation PINCER stood up by Australian Border Force on 25 January 2020 to manage the first phase of the Coronavirus border response, focused on assisted departures.	Australian Border Force
9	Establishment of the ABF Incident Control Centre	25-Jan-20	Australian Border Force Incident Control Centre established following the first confirmed case in Australia of COVID-19.	Australian Border Force; Department of Home Affairs

10	DFAT's Emergency Call Unit activated	26-Jan-20	DFAT Emergency Call Unit activated 24/7 to manage an increased number of inquiries.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
11	Travel advice for Hubei Province raised to level 4 'do not travel'	27-Jan-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
12	Travel advice for mainland China raised to level 3 'reconsider your need to travel'	28-Jan-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
13	Arrangements to assist isolated and vulnerable Australian citizens and permanent residents to be repatriated from Wuhan	29-Jan-20	The Government announced new arrangements to assist isolated and vulnerable Australian citizens and permanent residents to be repatriated from Wuhan. The Prime Minister announced Australians departing on any flight arranged by the Government would be flown to Christmas Island to undertake a period of isolation of up to 14 days based on current medical advice, as a condition of their assisted departure.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Border Force; Department of Home Affairs
14	Australian Health Protection Principal Committee commenced daily meetings to determine response measures and advice to Government	30-Jan-20	Meeting frequency increased in response to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis.	Department of Health
15	Travel advice for mainland China raised to level 4 'do not travel'	01-Feb-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
16	Travel restrictions on foreign nationals arriving from mainland China	01-Feb-20	The Government accepted and gave immediate effect to the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee to impose travel restrictions with exemptions in certain circumstances, including on compassionate grounds and for critical business.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
17	International Students Hotline and email	01-Feb-20	Hotline and email address for international students to call with queries activated.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
18	AFP Operation Burdei - operations to assist with the Government's departure of Australians returning from China and Japan	02-Feb-20	As part of this operation, 2443 passengers transferred via charter flight from Wuhan to Christmas Island via Learmonth Northern Territory. AFP deployed a total of 60 members to assist with quarantining and repatriation of Australians. Operation completed on 5 March.	Australian Federal Police

19	First Qantas charter flight from Wuhan arrived in Australia	03-Feb-20	The first Qantas chart flight, with 244 passengers, arrived at RAAF Base Learmonth from Wuhan (isolated on Christmas Island).	Department of Health; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force; Australian Defence Force; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
20	Air New Zealand flight from Wuhan arrived in Australia	06-Feb-20	Air New Zealand flight, with 36 Australian passengers, arrived in Australia (isolated on Christmas Island).	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
21	Second Qantas charter flight from Wuhan arrived in Australia	09-Feb-20	The second Qantas charter flight, with 266 passengers including eight Pacific island country nationals, arrived in Darwin from Wuhan (isolated at Howard Springs Accommodation Village, Northern Territory).	Department of Health; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force; Australian Defence Force; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
22	Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19 plan) endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee	17-Feb-20	The Government initiated the first stage of the COVID-19 Plan.	Department of Health
23	Passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship arrived in Australia from Japan	20-Feb-20	The Government assisted 170 people to depart from the Diamond Princess in Japan.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Health; Australian Border Force
24	Travel advice for Japan and South Korea overall raised to Level 2 'Exercise a high degree of caution'. Travel advice for Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea raised to Level 3 'Reconsider your need to travel'	20-Feb-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

25	Year 11 and 12 students from China offered exemptions from travel restrictions	22-Feb-20	The Government announced year 11 and 12 students from China who are completing their senior secondary schooling in Australia (excluding those from Hubei) can apply for an exemption to the COVID-19 travel restrictions applied to foreign nationals who have been in mainland China. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee provided advice.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
26	\$2 million Medical Research Future Fund allocation to help develop COVID-19 vaccine	18-Feb-20	The Government initiated a \$2 million grant opportunity to accelerate research into development of a safe, effective vaccine against SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.	Department of Health
27	Travel advice for the regions of Lombardia and Veneto in Northern Italy raised to Level 2 'Exercise a high degree of caution'	25-Feb-20	Travel advice updated to reflect the evolving global situation.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
28	Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance: National Arrangements (National CD plan) for coronavirus activated	25-Feb-20	The National CD Plan formally activated at the request of the Chief Medical Officer, in consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Home Affairs.	Department of Health
29	Extension of travel restrictions	27-Feb-20	The Government supported Australian Health Protection Principal Committee recommendations to maintain travel restrictions for China for a further seven days to 7 March 2020.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Border Force; Department of Home Affairs
30	Travel restrictions on foreign nationals arriving from Iran	29-Feb-20	On 29 February, the Prime Minister announced that from 1 March 2020, the Government will implement changes to travel arrangements for people travelling to, or returning from Iran, following expert medical advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the Government's Chief Medical Officer on the outbreak of COVID-19. The restrictions prevent them from entering Australia for 14 days, from the time they have left or transited through Iran.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Border Force
31	National Protocol for Managing Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Risk from Cruise Ships	03-Mar-20	The National Protocol for Managing Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Risk from Cruise Ships endorsed by Chief Human Biosecurity Officer authorised by the Director of Human Biosecurity. The protocol does not address confirmed cases of COVID-19 which were managed by the relevant public health authority.	Department of Health; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Australian Defence Force; Department of Infrastructure, Transport,

				Regional Development and Communications
32	Provision of COVID-19 assistance to Pacific and Timor-Leste	03-Mar-20	The Government announced support across the Pacific and Timor-Leste, including in the form of essential medical supplies, personal protective equipment and minor infrastructure support, the deployment of technical advisers and contributions to WHO's regional operations.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
33	Establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee on COVID-19	05-Mar-20	Advisory Group established to develop and deliver a management plan to implement the COVID-19 Plan for Indigenous Australians.	Department of Health
34	Travel restrictions on foreign nationals arriving from Republic of Korea	05-Mar-20	The Government implemented the advice of Australian Health Protection Principal Committee to impose travel restrictions on foreign nationals who are in the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March 2020. The restrictions prevent them from entering Australia for 14 days, from the time they have left or transited through the Republic of Korea.	Department of Health; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Border Force; Department of Home Affairs
35	Enhanced border screening arrangements for passengers arriving from Italy commence	05-Mar-20	The Government announced it would introduce enhanced screening arrangements for passengers arriving from Italy following advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs
36	National Coordination Mechanism commissioned to coordinate Australia's approach to COVID-19 in non-health sectors	05-Mar-20	The Government commissioned the National Coordination Mechanism to coordinate non-health related activities across jurisdictions and ensure a consistent national approach to providing essential services across a range of critical sectors and supply chains.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Home Affairs
37	Australian Federal Police establishes Operation Protect	05-Mar-20	Following the closure of earlier operations (Operation Burdei), Operation Protect (previously named Operation Tarben) established to lead the AFP's response to COVID-19 against three key pillars: protecting our people against COVID-19; safeguarding Australia's national interests; and assisting with public safety.	Australian Federal Police

38	Health partnership with states and territories announced	06-Mar-20	The Government announced it will pay 50 per cent of the additional costs incurred by state and territory health services as a result of the diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19, those suspected of having the virus or activities to prevent the spread of it. All jurisdictions signed the National Partnership Agreement on COVID-19, which gives effect to this announcement, on 13 March 2020.	Department of Health
39	DFAT issues advice for Australians to reconsider taking international cruises	09-Mar-20	Advice issued for Australians to reconsider taking international cruises.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
40	\$2.4 billion first phase health package announced	11-Mar-20	<p>The Government announced a \$2.4 billion health package to protect Australians, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with chronic conditions and Indigenous communities, from COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$100 million for telehealth services. - \$25 million for home delivery of medicines. - \$50.7 million to expand the national triage phone line. - \$206.7 million for up to 100 dedicated respiratory clinics. - \$58.7 million in additional support for remote communities. - \$170.2 million to establish a Medicare funded and bulk billed pathology test for COVID-19. - \$101.2 million to educate and train aged care workers. - \$500 million to pay states and territories for the additional costs incurred by public health hospitals in dealing with COVID-19. - \$30 million from the Medical Research Future Fund for vaccine, anti-viral and respiratory medicine research. - \$1.1 billion to increase the supply of personal protective equipment and pharmaceuticals held in the National Medical Stockpile. - \$30 million for infection control training and programs for health and aged care workers. - \$30 million to deliver a new national communications campaign. 	Department of Health

41	Travel restrictions on foreign nationals arriving from Italy	11-Mar-20	The Government implemented the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee to impose travel restrictions on foreign nationals who have left or transited through Italy. The restrictions prevent them from entering Australia for 14 days, from the time they have left or transited through Italy. The Australian Border Force updated SmartGate messaging to include the new restrictions.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Border Force
42	Supply Chain Industry Roundtable	11-Mar-20	Roundtable held with a broad cross section of industry representatives, to identify and manage emerging issues in supply chains. The roundtable has met on a weekly basis since its first meeting on 11 March to provide ongoing advice to Government.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
43	Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment and critical medical supplies for National medical stockpile	11-Mar-20	The Government worked closely with Australian industry to source and facilitate Personal Protective Equipment and critical medical supplies for the National medical stockpile. This includes: medical personal protective equipment; ventilators; primers, probes and reagents for COVID 19 testing; test kit components; and sample collection swabs.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and Department of Health
44	\$17.6 billion first economic support package announced	12-Mar-20	The Government announced a \$17.6 billion plan to keep Australians in jobs, keep businesses in business and support households and the Australian economy. The package includes: -\$700 million to temporarily increase the instant asset write off threshold and expand access. -\$3.2 billion for a time limited 15 month investment incentive. -\$6.7 billion to provide temporary cash flow support to small businesses. -\$1.3 billion to support small businesses to support the jobs of around 120,000 apprentices and trainees. - Temporarily waiving the Environmental Management Charge for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (\$8.5 million).	Treasury; Department of Education, Skills and Employment; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Austrade; Department of Social Services; Services Australia; Department of Veterans' Affairs
45	International Students working conditions extended	13-Mar-20	The Government announced international students currently employed at the major supermarkets are able to extend their working hours to help meet high demand for essential items. Ordinarily international students are subject to a maximum 40 hours a fortnight during term.	Department of Home Affairs
46	Announcement of a new National Cabinet for Coronavirus Response	13-Mar-20	The Council of Australian Governments agreed on 13 March 2020 to establish a National Cabinet to coordinate Australia's Coronavirus Response across State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government ('National Cabinet').	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

47	National public communication campaign launched	14-Mar-20	National campaign launched to inform all Australians about the coronavirus (COVID-19).	Department of Health
48	Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus escalated to 'Targeted Action' phase	15-Mar-20	The Government initiated the second 'Targeted Action' stage of the COVID-19 Plan.	Department of Health
49	Restrictions on mass gatherings - 500+ people	15-Mar-20	The National Cabinet endorsed new advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee to introduce restrictions on mass gatherings and recommend social distancing measures. Mass gatherings of 500+ people should not occur.	Department of Health
50	Compulsory self-isolation for international arrivals	15-Mar-20	Following a decision of Government, from 11:59pm on Sunday 15 March 2020, all international arrivals to Australia are required to undertake a precautionary self-isolation for 14 days, regardless whether they are citizens, residents or otherwise.	Department of Health
51	Cruise ship ban	15-Mar-20	The Government announced it would, on a voluntary basis, ban all cruise ship arrivals from foreign ports for a period of 30 days with no new cruises allowed to commence. Emergency requirement under the Biosecurity Act giving effect to this announcement commenced on 18 March 2020. Determination amended on 27 March 2020 to extend its operation until 15 June 2020 and require foreign cruise ships in Australian territory to leave Australian territory. The restrictions include direct arrivals and Round Trip Cruises.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Attorney-General's Department; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Australian Border Force
52	Creation of the Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit announced	15-Mar-20	The role of the unit will be to engage with peak business groups on systemic issues relating to COVID-19 to ensure these are being addresses by the Government.	Treasury
53	Online infection prevention and control training goes live	16-Mar-20	Infection prevention and control training modules go live online for care workers across the health, aged care, disability and other sectors.	Department of Health
54	Government establishes telecommunications Special Working Group	16-Mar-20	Following a roundtable with major telecommunications companies, the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts asked NBN Co to lead a special working group to ensure networks had sufficient capacity to manage working and studying from home. On 1 April, the ACCC provided interim authorisation for the operation of that group for the purposes of the Competition and Consumer Act.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

55	Australians overseas advised to return to Australia	17-Mar-20	Australians overseas at that time and who wished to return to Australia advised to do so as soon as possible by commercial means.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
56	Global travel advice raised to Level 4 'Do Not Travel'	18-Mar-20	The Government raised the advice for all overseas travel to the highest level - Level 4 "Do Not Travel".	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
57	Restrictions to Indoor gatherings - 100+ people	18-Mar-20	The National Cabinet accepted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people (including staff) will no longer be permitted from Wednesday 18 March 2020.	Department of Health
58	Aged care and older Australians - Restrictions on visits and arrangements at aged care facilities	18-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to restrictions on visits and arrangements at aged care facilities in line with AHPPC guidelines, enforced through state and territory directions.	Department of Health
59	Joint Intelligence Group	18-Mar-20	The Australian Federal Police established a Joint Intelligence Group (JIG) which serves as the central point of intelligence and coordinates efforts across law enforcement from Australia and New Zealand to monitor and share information on crime trends and potential risks to the community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the JIG include Home Affairs Portfolio agencies and state and territory law enforcement agencies.	Australian Federal Police
60	Additional Support for International Student Health Care Workers	18-Mar-20	The Government announced international students currently employed by aged care providers are able to extend their working hours to ensure the care of senior and vulnerable Australians. Ordinarily international students are subject to a maximum 40 hours a fortnight during term. Expanded on 24 April to include all student visa holders enrolled in health care related courses supporting the health effort against COVID-19 as directed by health officials.	Department of Health; Department Home Affairs
61	Declaration of a human biosecurity emergency	18-Mar-20	The Governor-General accepted the Minister for Health's recommendation that he declare a "human biosecurity emergency" under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> given the risks COVID-19 poses to human health and the need to control its spread in Australia.	Department of Health; Attorney-General's Department; Department of Home Affairs; Department of Agriculture; Water and the Environment
62	ANZAC day cancellations	18-Mar-20	The National Cabinet agreed that Anzac Day ceremonies and events should be cancelled due to the high proportion of older Australians who attend such events and the increased risk posed to such individuals. Alternate televised services and state and territory initiatives were put in place.	Department of Health and Department; Home Affairs; Department of Veterans' Affairs

63	Aviation Industry support	18-Mar-20	The Government announced a \$715 million aviation package for the refunding and ongoing waiving of a range Government charges on the industry including aviation fuel excise, air services charges on domestic airline operations and domestic and regional aviation security charges.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
64	Reduced Parliamentary Sitting Arrangements	18-Mar-20	Parliamentary sitting arrangements amended in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.	Department of Parliamentary Services
65	Launch of the australia.gov.au portal	18-Mar-20	The Government launched a new australia.gov.au portal to provide information on coronavirus and the Government's response directly to Australians.	Digital Transformation Agency
66	Supermarket Taskforce	18-Mar-20	The Supermarket Taskforce established to respond to challenges facing supermarkets arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and to coordinate supermarket responses across Australia. The Supermarkets Taskforce works collaboratively across Government agencies, the agriculture and transport industries, and retail sector, to ensure issues identified are resolved promptly.	Department of Home Affairs; Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Veterans' Affairs
67	Bureau of Meteorology – waiver of meteorological service charge	18-Mar-20	The Government decided to provide support for the aviation sector through a waiver of the Meteorological Services Charge until August 2020.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
68	NBN boosts capacity for Australians working at home	18-Mar-20	The Government announced that NBN Co would provide up to 40 per cent extra capacity to retailer service providers for three months free of charge since social distancing arrangements were put in place.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
69	Travel restrictions on all foreign nationals	19-Mar-20	The Government announced that from 9pm on 20 March 2020, Australia's borders are closed to all non-citizens and non-residents. The Government further announced the issuing of Isolation Declaration Cards to all incoming travellers from 06:00 AEDT 20 March 2020.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

70	Reserve Bank of Australia term funding facility for authorised deposit-taking institutions	19-Mar-20	The Reserve Bank announced it will provide a three-year funding facility to authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) at a fixed rate of 0.25 per cent. ADIs will be able to obtain initial funding of up to 3 per cent of their existing outstanding credit. They will have access to additional funding if they increase lending to businesses, especially to small and medium-sized businesses. This facility is for at least \$90 billion.	Treasury
71	Structured Finance Support	19-Mar-20	The Australian Office of Financial Management will be provided with an investment capacity of \$15 billion to invest in wholesale funding markets used by small authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) and non-ADI lenders.	Treasury
72	Specific guidance on indoor gatherings of less than 100 people (4 sq. m principle)	20-Mar-20	The National Cabinet agreed in a given occupied space, there must be a density of no more than one person per four square metres of floor space.	Department of Health
73	Special exemptions for limitations on indoor and outdoor gatherings	20-Mar-20	The National Cabinet agreed that it is at the discretion of the individual State and Territory Chief Health Officers or equivalent to assess each on their merits, and determine whether they can continue if mitigated by social distancing measures.	Department of Health
74	Restricting travel into remote communities	20-Mar-20	The National Cabinet provided in-principle agreement to the Minister for Health taking action under the Commonwealth <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> to restrict travel into remote Indigenous communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Emergency requirements under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> commenced 26 March 2020 and subsequently amended on 8 April and 24 April 2020. Restrictions include 24% of the Australian landmass and require people to undertake a 14-day self-isolation period prior to entering designated areas.	Department of Health; National Indigenous Australians Agency; Attorney-General's Department
75	\$444.6 million in additional funding for the aged care sector announced	20-Mar-20	The Government announced additional funding for the aged care sector to ensure the continuity of the aged care workforce. The package includes: -\$234.9 million for a COVID-19 retention bonus for staff in both residential and home care. -\$78.3 million in additional funding for residential aged care to support continuity of workforce supply. -\$26.9 million to supplement the viability of residential aged care facilities. -\$92.2 million in additional support to home care providers and organisations which deliver the Commonwealth Home Support Program. -\$12.3 million in additional funding for the myAgedcare service.	Department of Health

76	Lifting the Commonwealth debt ceiling	20-Mar-20	The Government announced it will lift the debt ceiling from \$600 billion to \$850 billion to ensure it has the capacity to deal with the ongoing economic impact of the coronavirus.	Treasury
77	Provide an exemption from responsible lending obligations for small business	20-Mar-20	The Government announced it will allow lenders the ability to move quickly to support small businesses, by providing an exemption from responsible lending obligations for a period of six months in relation to the credit they extend to their existing small business customers, provided there is an existing borrowing relationship and some proportion of that credit is used for business purposes.	Treasury
78	Announcement that the 2020-21 Commonwealth Budget will be postponed	20-Mar-20	The Government announced postponing handing down the Commonwealth Budget until 6 October 2020 because of COVID-19.	Treasury and Department of Finance
79	Additional Flexibility for jobseekers	20-Mar-20	The Government announced changes to servicing arrangements, lifting mutual obligation requirements (until 22 May 2020), removing the need for face-to-face contact in line with advice from health authorities and reducing job search requirements in line with softening labour market conditions. Further updates announced to this measure 24 March, 27 March and 22 April 2020.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
80	Fast-tracking research into treatments announced	21-Mar-20	The Government announced it will provide \$13 million (from the Medical Research Future Fund) to fast-track research into treatments for COVID-19.	Department of Health
81	\$2.6 million for coronavirus research	21-Mar-20	The Government announced it will invest more than \$2.6 million in cutting-edge diagnostics research at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, to tackle the evolving novel coronavirus health emergency.	Department of Health
82	New measures to support NDIS participants and providers announced	21-Mar-20	The Government announced: -NDIS plans will be extended by up to 24 months, ensuring continuity of support and increasing capacity of NDIA to focus on urgent and required changes to plans. -Face to face planning shifted to telephone meetings where possible. -Action plan to ensure NDIS participants and their families continue to receive the essential disability supports they need. -Proactive outreach to high-risk participants and sharing of data with states and territories to ensure continuity of supports. -Financial assistance to providers to support retention of workers including advance payments.	Department of Social Services; National Disability Insurance Agency

83	Increased restrictions on social gatherings (selected non-essential services)	22-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to move to more widespread restrictions on social gatherings.	Department of Health
84	Government recommends against all non-essential travel within Australia	22-Mar-20	The Government recommended against all unnecessary travel within Australia.	Department of Home Affairs
85	\$66.1 billion second economic support package announced	22-Mar-20	<p>The Government announced the second stage of its economic plan to cushion the economic impact of COVID-19 and help build a bridge to recovery. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An estimated \$14.1 billion over the forward estimates for a new time-limited Coronavirus supplement (and related initiatives). -An estimated additional \$4 billion over the forward estimates for the one-off \$750 stimulus payment to pensioners, social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. -An estimated \$1.2 billion over the forward estimates for early release of superannuation. -An estimated \$876 million over the forward estimates to reduce social security deeming rates. -Temporarily reducing superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account based pensions and similar products. -An estimated \$31.9 billion over the forward estimates (in the value of the related measure announced on 12 March) to temporarily boost cash flow for small and medium sized businesses. -\$20 billion for the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme. -Temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands. 	Treasury; Department of Social Services; Services Australia; Department of Health; Department of Education, Skills and Employment; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
86	Providing temporary statutory demand relief for financially distressed businesses	22-Mar-20	The Government temporarily increased the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive.	Treasury

87	Helping Business to Navigate Coronavirus	23-Mar-20	The Government announced \$42 Million additional funding for the Fair Work Ombudsman, provided immediately and over the next two years until 30 June 2022, to provide advice and guidance to employers and employees on their rights and obligations including through advice line services and the publication of materials online. This includes funding for Fair Work Ombudsman to partner with employer and employee groups and engage a legal services panel to provide specific advice.	Attorney-General's Department
88	Emergency Management Australia activated COMDISPLAN	23-Mar-20	The Director General, Emergency Management Australia activated COMDISPLAN nationwide to support requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance from any state and/or territory in response to COVID-19.	Department of Home Affairs
89	Expansion of business.gov.au hotline	23-Mar-20	The Government expanded support through business.gov.au 13 28 46 Contact Centre, through specialist advisers and extended support hours.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
90	Government to support Qantas and Virgin to operate non-scheduled commercial services to bring Australians home	24-Mar-20	The Government announced it will consider, on a case-by-case basis and where commercial options have been exhausted, supporting Australian airlines to operate non-scheduled commercial flights to less central locations to bring Australians home.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
91	Further restrictions on social gatherings (selected non-essential services and gatherings)	24-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to increase the lists of non-essential services and gatherings that are to be prohibited, in addition to those announced on 22 March 2020.	Department of Health
92	Ban on Australians travelling overseas	24-Mar-20	The Government announced a 'do not travel' ban on all Australian citizens and permanent residents departing Australian territory, subject to limited exceptions. This commenced on 25 March by the Minister for Health issuing a determination under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Department of Home Affairs; Department of Health; Attorney-General's Department; Australian Border Force; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
93	Action to prevent price gouging and exportation of critical sanitary and medical products	24-Mar-20	The Government announced action to help prevent exploitative price gouging and exporting products that are essential to preventing and controlling the spread of coronavirus. The Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Essential Goods) Determination 2020, commenced 31 March 2020.	Department of Home Affairs; Department of Health; Attorney-General's Department; Australian Border Force; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

94	Wages freeze for parliamentarians, parliamentary office holders, senior office holders and the APS Senior Executive Service	25-Mar-20	The Minister for Finance wrote to the President of the Remuneration Tribunal requesting a stay on increases in remuneration, entitlements and allowances for Ministers, parliamentarians, parliamentary office holders and all senior office holders that are subject to the Tribunal's determinations, reviews and other decisions. The Minister also wrote to the APS Commissioner requesting a stay on increases to remuneration, entitlements and allowances for SES officers. On 26 March 2020, the Australian Public Service Commissioner advised Secretaries and agency heads that SES salaries and conditions of employment are not to be increased until the Government has resolved the challenges relating to the pandemic.	Australian Public Service Commission
95	Repatriation of Australians abroad – initial announcement	25-Mar-20	The Government agreed to consider, on a case-by-case basis, supporting our airlines to operate non-scheduled services to less central locations to bring Australians home. These will only be done where it is feasible, where all other commercial options have been exhausted and where local authorities will permit such flights.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
96	Online nurse REFRESHER training	25-Mar-20	The Government announced funding for registered nurses to undertake online education to enable them to re-enter the clinical workforce and assist with the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially the Government committed to provide \$1 million for 1,000 places and increased the funding soon after to \$2.5 million for 3,000 places in response to demand.	Department of Health
97	Providing the Treasurer an instrument making power under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i>	25-Mar-20	The Treasurer provided an instrument making power to provide temporary flexibility in the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> to provide targeted relief for companies from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of the Coronavirus health crisis.	Treasury
98	Temporary relief from directors' personal liability for trading while insolvent	25-Mar-20	The Government temporarily increased the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive.	Treasury

99	Providing temporary debt relief for individuals	25-Mar-20	Temporary changes to the bankruptcy system implemented to help lessen the threat of people being forced into bankruptcy, including by increasing the temporary debt protection period available for people in financial difficulty from 21 days to six months, and increasing the debt threshold required for creditors to apply for a bankruptcy notice against a debtor from \$5,000 to \$20,000. This formed part of the Treasurer's broader package, providing temporary relief for financially distressed businesses.	Attorney-General's Department
100	Non-urgent elective surgery temporarily suspended	25-Mar-20	All non-urgent elective surgery temporarily suspended from 1 April. Only Category 1 and some exceptional Category 2 surgery will continue until 27 April.	Department of Health
101	Creation of a new National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC)	25-Mar-20	The Government announced establishment of a new National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) to coordinate advice to the Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social effects of the global coronavirus pandemic. The NCCC is based in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
102	Transport and Infrastructure Council statement affirming the importance of the transport sector	25-Mar-20	The Transport and Infrastructure Council affirmed the critical role the freight sector plays in providing essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods. This recognition extended to all members of the freight distribution chain and the importance of facilitating the movement of workers to keep the economy functioning.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
103	NBN Co boosts data for rural and regional customers	25-Mar-20	The Government announced NBN Co would provide 45GB additional data for Sky Muster customers in regional and remote areas.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
104	Prime Minister's Direction to facilitate the movement of APS employees	26-Mar-20	The Prime Minister issued a direction under section 21(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> requiring APS agency heads to identify critical functions within their organisations, including COVID-19 response functions, and identify the staff working in non-critical functions who may be temporarily redeployed. APS Workforce Management Taskforce established within the Australian Public Service Commission.	Australian Public Service Commission lead, with all relevant agencies
105	Government facilitated flights to bring Australians home from South America	26-Mar-20	The Government facilitated commercial charter flights to bring hundreds of Australians home from Peru and Uruguay. Chimu Adventures managed the operations out of Cusco and Lima in Peru and Montevideo in Uruguay.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

106	Smartraveller global bulletin issued encouraging Australians to return home	26-Mar-20	DFAT reissued the global bulletin to again encourage Australians wanting to return to take any commercial options that are still available.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
107	Expansion of coronavirus testing criteria	26-Mar-20	Expansion of the current coronavirus testing criteria to include testing people with fever or acute respiratory infection under certain categories.	Department of Health
108	COVID-19 text messages	26-Mar-20	The Government worked with telecommunications companies to facilitate the sending of text messages to Australians about COVID-19 on three occasions. Updates on 8 April 2020 and 5 May 2020.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
109	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Management Plan endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee	27-Mar-20	The AHPPC endorsed the Management Plan focuses on culturally appropriate considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the implementation of the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan.	Department of Health
110	Returning travellers restrictions	27-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to further restrictions on the movement of incoming travellers, introducing mandatory 14 day self-isolation in hotel/accommodation facilities (with limited exemptions) to be implemented no later than 23:59 AEDT 28 March 2020. Implemented by state and territory governments with enforcement through state and territory police, with support from the Australian Defence Force and Commonwealth law enforcement.	
111	Minister for Health Determination - Cruise Ship	27-Mar-20	The Minister for Health determined, under section 477(1) of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , that the operator of a foreign cruise ship in Australian territory must cause the ship to leave Australian territory as soon as reasonably practicable. The Minister for Health also extended the prohibition on international cruise ship arrivals by two months (to 15 June 2020).	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Australian Border Force; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
112	Establishment of the COVID-19 Counter Fraud Taskforce	27-Mar-20	Australian Federal Police's Operation Ashiba and the Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre in the Attorney-General's Department established the COVID-19 Counter Fraud Taskforce to support Commonwealth agencies to prevent fraud against the COVID-19 economic stimulus measures.	Australian Federal Police; Attorney General's Department

113	Australian Energy Regulator's Statement of Expectations of energy businesses: Protecting consumers and the energy market during COVID-19	27-Mar-20	The Government set reasonable expectations of energy companies to protect householders and small business customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, outlined by the Australian Energy Regulator.	Treasury; Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
114	Establishment of Australian Federal Police-led Taskforce Quadrant	28-Mar-20	The Australian Federal Police (in partnership with the Australian Border Force, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre) established Taskforce Quadrant to focus on the prevention and disruption of non-commercial exports of certain goods designated as essential to Australia's COVID-19 response.	Australian Federal Police; Australian Border Force
115	Launch of new COVID-19 website by Department of Home Affairs	28-Mar-20	The Department of Home Affairs launched a new website www.covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au . The website provides a dedicated source of information on COVID-19 related immigration and border arrangements, translated into 17 community languages.	Department of Home Affairs
116	Regional Airlines Network Support	28-Mar-20	The Government announced it will provide \$198 million (funded from COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund) for the Regional Air Network Assistance Package to ensure core routes for domestic freight will remain open. An additional \$100 million (funded from COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund) is available to provide direct financial support to smaller regional airlines during this unprecedented downturn in aviation activity should it be needed.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
117	Australian Border Force Commissioner Correspondence to Foreign Flagged Vessels	29-Mar-20	The Australian Border Force Commissioner wrote to all foreign-flagged vessels that were in Australian waters, asking them to leave Australian territory as soon as reasonably practicable, in accordance with the Minister for Health's determination, unless the Commissioner provided permission for them to remain for a period of time. Most cruise ships lodged a formal request for exemption that were later denied by the Australian Border Force Commissioner on the grounds that the presence of the vessels remain a risk to the spread of COVID-19 in Australia. On 4 April 2020, the Australian Border Force Commissioner issued a further direction to all foreign cruise ships to leave Australian waters, as soon as reasonably practicable.	Australian Border Force

118	Disembarkation of passengers from the Artania	29-Mar-20	Australian Border Force, Western Australia Police and Western Australia Department of Health facilitated the disembarkation of 800 passengers from the MV Artania to Perth International Airport in convoys of buses. Australian Federal Police provided uniform presence to facilitate processing.	Australian Border Force; Australian Federal Police
119	Government announces \$1.1 billion to support more mental health, Medicare and domestic violence services	29-Mar-20	The Government announced a \$1.1 billion package including: - \$669 million to expand Medicare-subsidised telehealth services for all Australians. -An initial \$150 million to support Australian experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence due to the fallout of COVID-19. -An initial \$74 million to support the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians. -\$200 million to support charities and other community organisations which provide emergency and food relief.	Department of Health; Department of Social Services; Treasury
120	Launch of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) App and WhatsApp feature	29-Mar-20	The Government launched an App and WhatsApp feature to provide information directly to more Australians, providing up to date health advice and Government measures.	Department of Health; Digital Transformation Agency
121	Further restrictions to indoor and outdoor public gatherings	29-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings to two persons only (with outlined exemptions).	Department of Health
122	Changes to foreign investment framework announced	29-Mar-20	The Government announced it would temporarily reduce the foreign investment screening threshold to \$0 and extend the deadline for case processing to six months.	Treasury
123	Commercial and residential tenancies	29-Mar-20	National Cabinet agreed to a moratorium on evictions over the next six months for commercial and residential tenancies in financial distress.	Treasury
124	Exempt rest stops and roadhouses from restrictions on non-essential services.	30-Mar-20	The National Cabinet agreed to exempt rest stops and road houses from restrictions on non-essential services. Rest stops and roadhouse provide services such as rest and shower facilities to heavy vehicle drivers to meet Heavy Vehicle National Law fatigue requirements.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

125	\$130 billion third economic support package announced (JobKeeper)	30-Mar-20	<p>The Government announced it would provide \$130 billion for a new JobKeeper payment to keep Australians in a job. Eligible workers will receive a flat payment of \$1,500 per fortnight through their employer, before tax. Announcement of this, the third economic support package, brings the Government's total economic support package to \$320 billion (or 16.4 per cent of GDP).</p> <p>Also announced as part of the third package the decision to temporarily relax the partner income test for the Jobseeker payment (effective 27 April 2020).</p>	Australian Taxation Office; Treasury; Services Australia
126	Customs (Prohibited Exports) Amendment (COVID-19 Human Biosecurity Emergency) Regulations 2020	30-Mar-20	<p>The Customs (Prohibited Exports) Amendment (COVID-19 Human Biosecurity Emergency) Regulations 2020 (the Regulation) came into force. The Regulation amended the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958 to temporarily prohibit non-commercial exports of prescribed protective gear, hand sanitisers and alcohol wipes ('essential goods'). The Regulation enables the ABF to seize attempted exports of essential goods as prohibited exports under the <i>Customs Act 1901</i> from 30 March 2020.</p>	Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force
127	Banning exploitative price-gouging and profiteering of the same essential goods that contribute to preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19	30-Mar-20	<p>The Minister for Health made a determination, under section 477(1) of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>, banning exploitative price-gouging and profiteering of the same essential goods that contribute to preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19. The determination also required the surrender of such essential goods that had been attempted to be exported prior to 30 March 2020 came into force on 31 March 2020.</p>	Department of Health, Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force, Australian Federal Police
128	Temporary exemption for rail operators unable to update a health assessment	31-Mar-20	<p>The Transport and Infrastructure Council agreed an exemption for transport operators to section 114 of the Rail Safety National Law, allowing operators to postpone routine health assessments for rail safety workers for three months. This exemption allows flexibility as upcoming medical requirements may not be possible to meet considering the current pressure on the medical sector.</p>	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

129	Australian Government partnership with private health sector	31-Mar-20	The Government announced partnering with the private hospital sector to ensure over 30,000 hospital beds, and the sector's 105,000 skilled workforce, are available to integrate with the public hospital sector. The Government guaranteed the viability of all 657 private and not-for-profit hospitals, in return for maintenance and capacity during the COVID-19 response.	Department of Health
130	Assistance with food and meals for older Australians impacted by COVID-19	31-Mar-20	The Government announced an additional \$59.3 million for vital meal delivery services to support senior Australians. The package includes: -\$50m to fund 3.4 million meals for 41,000 people for 6 weeks – the equivalent of two meals a day. -\$9.3m to buy 36,000 emergency food supply boxes.	Department of Health
131	Australia Council for the Arts Resilience Fund	31-Mar-20	The Australian Council for the Arts announced approximately \$5 million to be directed to a Resilience Fund designed to provide emergency relief to support the livelihoods, practice and operations of Australian artists, groups and organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
132	Provision of COVID-19 assistance to Pacific and Timor-Leste	01-Apr-20	The Government announced further measures to support the Pacific and Timor-Leste, including a humanitarian and essential services corridor, a border exemption for Pacific islanders transiting Australia, financial support to help partner governments in the Pacific and Timor-Leste to ensure critical services can continue, and assistance with laboratories, medical equipment, health expertise, public information, and support for national/WHO plans.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
133	Export Market Development Grants	01-Apr-20	The Government announced additional support of \$49.8 million to assist exporters and tourism businesses to get additional reimbursements for costs incurred in marketing their products and services globally.	Austrade; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Tourism Australia

134	Support for essential agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries through the \$110 million International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) initiative	01-Apr-20	Funded under the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund, the Government announced a new \$110 million International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) initiative (funded from COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund) to back Australia's agricultural and fisheries sector by helping them export their produce to key overseas markets, with return flights bringing back vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment. The Government also announced around \$10 million in Australian Fisheries Management Authority levies will be waived for all Commonwealth fishers. The Government announced the establishment of a new network of 15 air freight service providers and freight forwarders to deliver agricultural and fisheries exports into key overseas markets on 23 April.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
135	\$1.6 billion Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package	02-Apr-20	The Government announced the new Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package to support child care services to remain open in the wake of COVID-19. Payments will be made to child care services to ensure services can remain open, and families who need it can access care.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
136	Training more nurses for critical care	02-Apr-20	The Government announced it will provide up to \$4.1 million to fund up to 20,000 new online education places to enable Registered Nurses to develop knowledge enabling them to assist in the delivery of care in intensive care and high dependency units across Australia.	Department of Health
137	\$123 million boost to Indigenous response to COVID-19	02-Apr-20	The Government announced it is making available \$123 million over two year from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and the Aboriginal Benefit Account for targeted measures to support indigenous businesses and communities to strengthen their ability to respond to COVID-19.	National Indigenous Australians Agency
138	Jobs Hub and Employer Response Unit	2-Apr-20	The new Jobs Hub provides an up to date list of businesses and organisations that are currently hiring, and how to contact them. Employers with critical skill and labour needs can also receive support to connect with retrenched/stood down workers and employment services.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
139	International aviation network announced	03-Apr-20	The Government announced it will establish a network of flights to four key international hubs - London, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Auckland for four weeks, to help bring Australians home and maintain freight links.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

140	Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Skills Council	3-Apr-20	The COAG Skills Council agreed to drive a national approach to securing capacity in Australia's national training system through the VET sector three key priority areas: - critical skills and workforce availability, with a focus on ensuring training can continue and to support skills for workers in areas of critical needs - vocational education and training (VET) provider viability, to maintain training capacity, and - supporting students to ensure as many VET students as possible are supported to continue their training in the event their training providers temporarily or permanently close during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
141	Australian Border Force Commissioner further directed all Cruise ships to depart Australian waters	04-Apr-20	On 4 April 2020, the Australian Border Force Commissioner further directed all foreign cruise ships to leave Australian waters with the last vessel to depart by 8 April 2020. On 28 April 2020, the final foreign flagged cruise ship (Caledonian Sky) in Australian waters departed its Australian port.	Australian Border Force
142	New Visa Arrangements for Seasonal Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme	04-Apr-20	The Government announced temporary changes to visa arrangements that would allow Pacific workers under the Seasonal Worker Programme and the Pacific Labour Scheme to continue working in the agriculture sector until COVID-19 has passed.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Education, Skills and Employment; Department of Home Affairs
143	\$1.5 million to support clinical management of COVID-19	04-Apr-20	The Government announced \$1.5 million to support guidance for clinicians to ensure they are given the best possible advice on managing COVID-19 patients.	Department of Health
144	Changes for Temporary Visa holders	04-Apr-20	The Government announced a number of changes to temporary visa holder arrangements for International Students; New Zealanders on 444 visas; Temporary Skilled visa holders; and working holiday makers supporting critical sectors.	Department of Home Affairs
145	\$220 million for CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness	04-Apr-20	CSIRO announced \$220 million will be directed to upgrading the high containment biosecurity research facility in Geelong, currently testing vaccines to combat the disease.	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
146	Support to CSIRO to develop a COVID-19 vaccine	04-Apr-20	The Government announced \$10 million to support the fast-track development of a COVID-19 vaccine. This money is additional to the \$220 million allocated for CSIRO facility upgrades.	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

147	Seafarer certificate renewal extension	05-Apr-20	The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is providing Australian seafarers impacted by COVID-19 with an automatic six-month extension on their qualifications.	Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
148	National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Priority Home Delivery Service	05-Apr-20	The National Disability Insurance Agency and leading supermarkets announced a new Priority Home Delivery Service for over 340,000 NDIS participants who are unable to do their shopping in their usual way.	National Disability Insurance Agency
149	GP clinics to get free NBN boost for telehealth	06-Apr-20	The Government announced that NBN Co would support the delivery of enhanced telehealth services by upgrading Australian GP clinics to 50Mbps download and 20Mbps upload connections at no extra cost for a period of six months.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
150	Simplifying deductions for working from home	06-Apr-20	The Australian Taxation Office announced temporary arrangements to make it easier for Australians to claim deductions for working from home due to COVID-19.	Australian Taxation Office
151	Critical funding for public interest journalism	06-Apr-20	The Government announced the release of \$5 million from the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund to support public interest journalism during COVID-19.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
152	Supporting parents and carers to keep children safe online during COVID-19	07-Apr-20	The Government announced that eSafety released the new 'COVID-19 Global Safety Advice for Parents and Carers' to provide specific information and guidance to families who are increasingly relying on the internet to work, learn and socialise, to ensure the online safety of children.	Office of the eSafety Commissioner; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
153	Rent relief available for tenants in Commonwealth properties	07-Apr-20	The Government announced that non-corporate Commonwealth entities will waive rents from 24 March for small and medium enterprises and not-for-profit tenants within its owned and leased property across Australia. Corporate Commonwealth entities are supporting the Policy where possible.	Department of Finance
154	Payments to entities for COVID-19 related falls in revenue	09-Apr-20	Provide funding to a range of entities to allow continuing service provision in the context of a significant fall in revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. \$67.7 million funding provided.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Finance

155	Support to Indigenous communities and remote food security	09-Apr-20	Following a roundtable with state and territory counterparts on support to Indigenous communities, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs wrote an open letter to supermarkets, wholesalers and food manufacturers to support food supply to remote communities and stores.	National Indigenous Australians Agency; Department of Home Affairs
156	Free Coronavirus Wellbeing Support Service	09-Apr-20	The Government launched a new 24/7 support service specifically designed to help people through the COVID-19 pandemic. It is available free of charge to all Australians. The Government will provide \$10 million over 2019-20 and 2020-21 to Beyond Blue for the service.	Department of Health
157	Arts Industry Package	09-Apr-20	The Government announced it will commit \$27 million (from the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund) to support the arts sector, including: -\$10 million to help regional artists and organisations develop new work and explore new delivery models. -\$7 million in additional funding to support indigenous artists and arts centres. -\$10 million to Support Act to extend its important work across the arts sector.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australia Council
158	Deferral of Australian Public Service wage increases	09-Apr-20	The Government made a determination under s.24(3) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> to delay by 6 months, all general salary increases due to non-SES staff over the 12 month period from 14 April 2020.	Australian Public Service Commission
159	Hardship provisions for energy, water and rates	09-Apr-20	National Cabinet agreed to a nationally consistent approach to hardship support across the essential services for households and small businesses.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
160	Government-facilitated commercial flights from Lima (Peru), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Johannesburg (South Africa)	09-Apr-20	The Government announced a Qantas flight from Lima scheduled to depart on 13 April, and that details of Buenos Aires and Johannesburg flights were being organised. They also announced LATAM flights to multiple South American destinations, and foreshadowed flights from the Philippines and India.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
161	To facilitate the movement of workers around the country and support continued economic activity a class exemption for non-cruise maritime crew developed	09-Apr-20	National Cabinet agreed that the Government and all states and territories would implement a consistent and immediate exemption for non-cruise maritime crew to provide for the transiting to and from their place of work, within and across jurisdictions.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australian Border Force

162	Exceptional Circumstances Supplementary Relief Payment Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package	10-Apr-20	The Government announced early childhood education and care providers can apply for exceptional circumstances funding to support services to remain open, for example, if the services is providing more hours of care or care for more children due to COVID-19.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
163	Funding to Red Cross	11-Apr-20	\$7 million in funding allocated to Red Cross to provide emergency relief to temporary visa holders.	Department of Home Affairs
164	Higher Education Relief Package	12-Apr-20	The Government announced a Higher Education Relief Package that includes: - providing higher education providers with assurance that they will receive \$14 billion from the Commonwealth Grant Scheme and Higher Education Loan Program in 2020 regardless of any change in enrolments due to COVID-19. -new short courses for the unemployed. -funding flexibility for universities. -\$100 million in regulatory relief for education providers. - reduction or deferral of regulatory costs for tertiary and CRICOS registered education providers.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
165	\$3 million to boost the national coordinated COVID-19 research response announced	13-Apr-20	The Government announced a further \$3 million to support frontline health workers with training and information which will support the treatment of patients with COVID-19. This include: -allocating \$1 million from the Medical Research Future Fund to the CovED initiative. -allocating \$2 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council to the Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies.	Department of Health
166	Australian Manufacturing Fund for Personal Protective Equipment	14-Apr-20	The Australian Manufacturing Fund for Personal Protective Equipment grant opportunity provides funds to eligible small and medium sized businesses, with up to 199 employees, to invest in efficient and transformative manufacturing processes and re-train staff and/or create new jobs to produce personal protective equipment.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

167	Package of measures to help sustain Australian media businesses announced	15-Apr-20	The Government announced a package of measures to help sustain Australian media businesses to ensure they can continue to keep the community informed during the COVID-10 pandemic. The package includes: -\$41 million in spectrum tax rebates. -A new \$50 million Public Interest News Gathering program for regional journalism. -Emergency suspension of content quotas in 2020. -Release of an Options Paper commencing a fast-tracked consultation process on how best to support Australian stories on our screens.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australian Communications Media Authority
168	Repurposing MySkills Website	15-Apr-20	The Government launched the improved and repurposed My Skills website which focuses on online training for Australians looking to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
169	Government-facilitated Qantas flight departed Peru on 14 April	15-Apr-20	Foreign Minister announced departure of government facilitated Qantas flight from Peru to Australia.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
170	Protecting and supporting people with disability	16-Apr-20	National Cabinet endorsed the Management and Operational Plan for COVID-19 for People with Disability and agreed to its release on the Australian Government Department of Health's website.	Department of Health
171	\$3.3 million to establish rapid testing program for remote and rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	16-Apr-20	The Government announced it will invest \$3.3 million to establish a rapid COVID-19 Remote Point of Care Testing Program for remote and rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	Department of Health
172	Government support to continue domestic flights	16-Apr-20	The Government announced it will invest up to \$165 million to ensure Qantas and Virgin Australia Groups operate a minimum domestic network servicing the most critical metropolitan and regional routes in Australia.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
173	\$150 million NBN assistance for families and businesses	17-Apr-20	The Government announced that NBN Co will provide \$150 million in financial relief to internet providers so they can assist Australian families and businesses in accessing the National Broadband Network (NBN) during COVID-19.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

174	Sydney Airport: East-west runway parking approval	17-Apr-20	The Government granted Sydney Airport approval to temporarily use its east-west runway to accommodate aircraft grounded as a consequence of efforts to manage the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
175	Telecommunications hardship principles	17-Apr-20	The Government and the telecommunications industry issued a joint statement outlining an agreed set of principles to ensure all Australians remain connected to telecommunications services during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
176	Access to indigenous communities by telecommunications companies	17-Apr-20	The Government worked collaboratively with telecommunications companies to facilitate access to indigenous communities and to provide explanatory material to telco field forces.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Health; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
177	Code of conduct for news media organisations and media platforms	20-Apr-20	The Government directed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to develop a mandatory code of conduct to address bargaining power imbalances between digital platforms and media companies.	ACCC; Treasury; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
178	Travel Restrictions	20-Apr-20	The Government announced the extension of international departure travel restrictions on Australian citizens and permanent residents for a further four weeks until 20 May 2020. Previous restrictions were due to expire on 22 April 2020.	Department of Health; Department of Home Affairs; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Australian Border Force; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
179	Planning Ministers - planning principles agreed	20-Apr-20	Planning Ministers from the Government, every state and territory, and the President of the Australian Local Government Association agreed a set of principles on how our planning systems should operate during this time.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
180	Regulatory relief for Australia Post	21-Apr-20	The Government announced it agreed to Australia Post's request to temporarily adjust Australia Post's Performance Standards to reflect the operating constraints that have resulted from COVID-19. This will allow it to redeploy its workforce to support key pressures as they emerge, presently to deliver parcels.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Finance

181	\$41.7 million in additional funding to support mature aged job seekers announced	21-Apr-20	The Government announced additional funding for the Career Transition Assistance program to help mature age job seekers access training and support to improve their digital literacy, job opportunities and identifying transferrable skills.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
182	Easing restrictions on elective surgery	21-Apr-20	National Cabinet announced it agreed to allow Category 2 and some Category 3 elective surgery to take place in public and private hospitals.	Department of Health
183	Fuel Security	22-Apr-20	The Government announced a \$94 million COVID-19 fuel security package that will purchase crude oil in the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve, work with the private sector to strengthen domestic fuel security and provide relief to refineries.	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
184	New air freight network to boost agricultural and fisheries exports announced	23-Apr-20	As part of the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) initialise, the Government announced the establishment of a new network of 15 air freight service providers and freight forwarders to deliver agricultural and fisheries exports into key overseas markets.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Austrade
185	Student Visa Conditions	23-Apr-20	The Government announced student visa holders studying relevant medical courses were able to temporarily work more than the 40 hours per fortnight usually allowed, if they are working in support of COVID-19 efforts and at the direction of the relevant health authority. Student visa holders working for registered disability service providers will also be able to work more than the usual 40 hours.	Department of Home Affairs
186	Critical Health Resource Information System	23-Apr-20	Critical Health Resource Information System (CHRIS), a tool to share live data on available Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and ICU equipment, including ventilators. CHRIS will operate in all public and private hospitals with ICUs.	Department of Health
187	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust rent and solvency support	23-Apr-20	Short term rent relief for eligible commercial and residential tenants in properties managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Relief will be provided in line with the Government's Rent Relief Policy. \$14 million confirmed funding.	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
188	Support to local producers of hand sanitiser, face masks and gowns	24-Apr-20	The Government assisted in the local production of key supplies including: supporting Med-Con and Detmold to produce face masks (17 March - Med-Con; 31 March - Detmold); helping local producers increase production of hand sanitiser (23 March); and assisting Clets Linen to pivot and produce 3750 medical grade surgical gowns for frontline workers (24 April).	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and Department of Health

189	\$6 million to support drug and alcohol services	24-Apr-20	The Government announced an additional \$6 million during the COVID-19 pandemic for online and phone support services for people experiencing drug and alcohol problems.	Department of Health
190	Advice on Schools	24-Apr-20	National Cabinet agreed with updated Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice on schools.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
191	Government-facilitated Qantas flight departed Argentina 25 April	26-Apr-20	The Government stated publically that a government facilitated commercial flight had departed Buenos Aires to Australia.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
192	COVIDSafe announced	26-Apr-20	The Government launched the new voluntary COVIDSafe app. The app uses technology to automate and improve what state and territory health officials already do manually.	Department of Health; Attorney-General's Department
193	Further initiatives to support NDIS participants and providers during COVID-19 announced	27-Apr-20	The Government announced: -For the next 5 months, eligible participants will be able to flexibly use existing NDIS plan funding to purchase low-cost Assistive Technology to enable continued access to disability supports through telehealth and telepractice while physical distancing. -New support items for Supported Independent Living providers are now available where a participant has been diagnosed with COVID-19 -Downloadable NDIS Access Request and Supporting Evidence Forms are now available on the NDIS website.	
194	\$27 million for more support for child care services and children	27-Apr-20	The Government announced an additional \$27 million in grants of up to \$10,000 to child care services to ensure they can continue providing care to children of essential workers.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
195	Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums	28-Apr-20	The Government announced a \$95.1 million support package (funded through the Relief and Recovery Fund) for zoos and aquariums to help assist exhibiting zoos and aquariums with the fixed operational costs associated with the caring of their animals, while also helping to ensure Australian zoos and aquariums can remain viable and ready to welcome visitors when restrictions are eased.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

196	10 million addition COVID-19 testing kits	29-Apr-20	The Government announced a partnership between the Australian Government, Minderoo Foundation and private pathology providers, Australia securing an additional 10 million COVID-19 test kits and pathology equipment to be installed across the country.	Department of Health
197	Supporting isolated older Australians during Coronavirus	29-Apr-20	The Government announced on 24 April 2020 that free daytime webinars are available to help improve the online skills of Senior Australians as they increasingly turn to the internet to access online services and connect with loved ones during. The Government announced on 29 April 2020 it is providing \$1 million in grants for community organisations to provide digital devices to older Australians. Both initiatives are delivered as part of the Federal Government's existing "Be Connected" program.	Office of the eSafety Commissioner; Department of Social Services; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
198	Non-Government schools early payments	29-Apr-20	Non-government schools have the option to apply for early payments of their July 2020 recurrent funding (up to \$3 billion), accessing up to 25 per cent of their total annual recurrent funding early.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
199	Appointment of Australian Government Freight Controller	30-Apr-20	The Government announced the appointment of Air Vice-Marshal Margaret Staib AM CSC (Retired) as the Government Freight Controller and will focus on securing inbound freight of national importance such as medical supplies.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Austrade
200	Government-facilitated Qantas flight departed Johannesburg on 29 April	30-Apr-20	The Government stated publically that a government facilitated commercial flight had departed from Johannesburg to Melbourne.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
201	Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package - expansion of eligibility for additional supplementary payments	01-May-20	The Government announced that early childhood education and care providers, including non-government schools, large charities and not-for-profit organisations which are not eligible for JobKeeper Payments are eligible for an Additional Supplementary Payment under the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package. Family Day Care and In-Home Care Educators which are not eligible for JobKeeper will also be eligible for an Additional Supplementary Payment, so long as Educators apply for an ABN by 1 June 2020.	Department of Education, Skills and Employment

202	New COVID-19 payment to keep senior Australians in residential aged care safe	01-May-20	The Government announced \$205 million in funding for residential aged care providers to cover costs of caring for the health and wellbeing of residents during the pandemic, as well as costs of additional staffing, training, supporting visitations and the provision of personal protective equipment.	Department of Health
203	Justice Sector Preparedness	05-May-20	The Government announced \$63.3 million for the legal assistance sector to ensure there is access to legal support for Australians who need it during this time. The funding includes \$49.8 million for additional frontline services, such as legal advice or representation, with 40 per cent to be used for matters involving domestic violence. \$13.5 million will be provided to cover IT costs to support the justice sector's transition to delivering assistance virtually and online.	Attorney-General's Department
204	Plans for trans-Tasman COVID-safe travel zone	05-May-20	Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison MP and Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern announced that Australia and New Zealand committed to introducing a trans-Tasman COVID-safe travel zone as soon as it is safe to do so.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Home Affairs
205	International Aviation Network to continue repatriation of Australians overseas	08-May-20	The Government committed \$50 million to continue its network of international flights to London and Los Angeles to help Australians return home over the next four weeks.	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications