

## **Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic  
– 18 August 2020

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Q16 - 18 August 2020 – Submissions to COVID-19 inquiries - Paterson

**Question reference number:** 16

**Senator/Member:** James Paterson

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 September 2020

#### **Question:**

Could the department please provide to the committee any submissions it has made to the Victorian Hotel Quarantine Inquiry, the Victorian parliamentary inquiry into COVID-19, or any other inquiries relating to the COVID-19 response.

#### **Answer:**

The attached Commonwealth voluntary submission was provided to the following inquiries:

- Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program
- Parliament of Victoria Public Accounts and Estimates Committee: Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Our ref. 20205747

26 August 2020

The Honourable Jennifer Coate AO  
Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19  
Hotel Quarantine Program

By email:

**Australian Government Solicitor**  
4 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600  
Locked Bag 35, Kingston ACT 2604  
DX 5678 Canberra  
www.ags.gov.au

Canberra  
Sydney  
Melbourne  
Brisbane  
Perth  
Adelaide  
Hobart  
Darwin

Dear Judge

#### **COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE TO THE COVID-19 HOTEL QUARANTINE INQUIRY**

---

1. We refer to your letters dated 13 August 2020 to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP, and to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Honourable Linda Reynolds CSC, requesting information about engagements between the Commonwealth Government and the Victorian Government relating to support from the Australian Defence Force (**ADF**) for Victoria's hotel quarantine program.
2. The Australian Government Solicitor (**AGS**) acts for the Commonwealth of Australia in relation to the Board of Inquiry into the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program (the **Inquiry**) on the instructions of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Department of Defence (collectively, the **Commonwealth**).
3. We **enclose**, for the Commonwealth, a voluntary submission addressing the questions raised in your correspondence.
4. The Commonwealth's preparedness to assist the Inquiry voluntarily is not a concession that the Commonwealth or its officers and employees are:
  - a. bound by the *Inquiries Act 2014* (VIC) or
  - b. subject to any of the Inquiry's coercive powers.
5. Where possible, the Commonwealth has provided copies of supporting documents. However, we are instructed that a number of documents are Cabinet documents or are otherwise sensitive inter-governmental communications and in relation to which the Commonwealth, consistently with long established principle and convention, asserts public interest immunity. Accordingly these documents have not been provided.
6. In parts of this submission the content of documents (other than documents which reveal the deliberations of Cabinet) have been extracted or revealed even though



the balance of the document is not disclosed on the basis of public interest immunity. This approach has been taken in an effort to assist the Inquiry to the fullest extent possible, but should not be understood to be an approach which is inconsistent with the maintenance of immunity over the balance of the document.

7. Before the Inquiry takes steps to publish the voluntary submission or the attachments, the Commonwealth requests an opportunity to consider if any further redactions are appropriate.
8. Please direct to us any communication regarding the Commonwealth, its agencies, employees or officers.

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Blunn**  
National Leader, AGS Dispute Resolution

**Stacey Hahn**  
Senior Lawyer



*Australian Government Solicitor*

## **Voluntary submission to the COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Inquiry**

**Commonwealth of Australia (by the Department  
of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the  
Department of Defence)**

**26 August 2020**

---

The Australian Government Solicitor  
Level 42 MLC Centre  
19 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Contact: Matthew Blunn, National Leader, AGS Dispute Resolution and Stacey Hahn, Senior Lawyer

## Introduction

---

1. On 9 March 2020, the Australian Defence Force (**ADF**) established a COVID-19 Taskforce, led by Lieutenant General John Frewen DSC AM. The role of the Taskforce was to:
  - a. co-ordinate the ADF's internal response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and
  - b. provide support where required to whole-of-government activities in relation to COVID-19.
2. On 21 March 2020, the Chief of Defence Force (**CDF**), General Angus Campbell AO DSC, directed the ADF to support all states and territories with their response to COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>
3. State and territory-based Joint Task Groups were established to reinforce and expand the capacity of the states and territories to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.
4. On 22 March 2020, the CDF appointed Brigadier Matthew Burr to command the Victorian-based Joint Task Group to oversee support to Victoria. In this role, Brigadier Burr maintained regular engagement with Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner, Mr Andrew Crisp APM (**EMV Commissioner**). That engagement involved frequent meetings or regular telephone calls to discuss best potential use of ADF resources, forward planning, and incident management.
5. On 23 March 2020, the ADF appointed a Senior ADF Liaison Officer to Emergency Management Victoria (**EMV**) on a full-time basis. The Liaison Officer was responsible, among other things, for maintaining ADF engagement with EMV, including attending planning and coordination meetings.
6. On 25 March 2020, the ADF established 'Operation COVID-19 Assist', led by Major General Paul Kenny from 28 March 2020. The purpose of Operation COVID-19 Assist was to provide authorised ADF support to the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments via the State and Territory-based Joint Task Groups.
7. Emergency Management Australia (**EMA**) is a division of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs (**DHA**). EMA is responsible for developing and coordinating Commonwealth capabilities for responding to and managing disasters and emergencies.
8. EMA prepares and maintains the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan 2017 (**COMDISPLAN**).<sup>2</sup> COMDISPLAN outlines the arrangements for requesting and coordinating the provision of Commonwealth non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in the event of an emergency or disaster within Australia or its offshore territories. It complements existing agreements (such as bilateral arrangements) between Australian jurisdictions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Attachment 1 – CDF TASKORD 2020-028.

<sup>2</sup> Attachment 2 – Australian Government Disaster Response Plan 2017.

9. COMDISPLAN provides (at 2.1) that authority to request Commonwealth non-financial assistance is vested in one nominated official in each jurisdiction (or in their absence, an officer acting under appropriate delegation). Nominated officials pass requests for Commonwealth assistance to EMA for consideration by the Director-General of EMA (**DGEMA**). Following receipt of Ministerial approval for the provision of Commonwealth non-financial assistance, the DGEMA is authorised to request any appropriate agency to provide the assistance requested. The relevant nominated official in Victoria is the EMV Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner of Police (COMDISPLAN 2.1.2).
10. COMDISPLAN provides that in some circumstances, locally based Commonwealth resources may be deployed in support of local authorities for limited periods without the need to activate COMDISPLAN. This may, for example, include the provision of Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (**DACC**), which is activated for a set period of time under local arrangements. Operation COVID-19 Assist is coordinated through the DACC process.
11. The DACC framework allows the ADF to provide timely and appropriate assistance to the civil community when their own resources are exhausted or emergency assistance is required. It permits the use of ADF resources and assets to save life or property. For crises and large scale emergencies, the mobilisation of ADF assistance is underpinned by the states or territories submitting a request for assistance through EMA.
12. As at 18 August 2020, the ADF had received 14 Requests for Assistance from Victoria through this system. Eleven requests for assistance were accepted, two were withdrawn and one request was not supported by the ADF.
13. One of the withdrawn requests related to ADF support for hotel quarantine compliance. Further information concerning this request and its withdrawal is set out below.
14. The ADF has not otherwise received a request to provide support for hotel quarantine compliance in Victoria.

#### **Questions raised by the Inquiry**

---

15. On 13 August 2020, the Honourable Jennifer Coate AO wrote to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP, and to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Honourable Linda Reynolds CSC, requesting information about engagements between the Commonwealth Government and the Victorian Government relating to support from the ADF for Victoria's hotel quarantine program.
16. As noted in the covering letter of the Australian Government Solicitor (**AGS**) dated 25 August 2020, the Commonwealth is concerned to assist the Inquiry on a voluntary basis by providing this submission, and seeking to address the questions raised by the Inquiry. In doing so, the Commonwealth does not concede that the Commonwealth is, or its officers and employees are:

- a. bound by the *Inquiries Act 2014* (VIC), or
  - b. subject to any of the Inquiry's coercive powers.
17. The Commonwealth's responses to the Inquiry's questions are set out below.
18. To the extent that an answer to a question concerns the deliberations or a decision of Cabinet (including the National Cabinet), the Commonwealth will not reveal documents which evidence those deliberations or decisions, on the basis that those documents are protected by Public Interest Immunity (**PII**). Assertion by the Commonwealth of a PII claim in this context is not an attempt to frustrate the work of the Inquiry but rather reflects the application of long standing practice and principle in relation to the deliberations of Cabinet.
19. In parts of this submission the content of documents (other than documents which reveal the deliberations of Cabinet) have been extracted or revealed even though the balance of the document is not disclosed on the basis of public interest immunity. This approach has been taken in an effort to assist the Inquiry to the fullest extent possible, but should not be understood to be an approach which is inconsistent with the maintenance of immunity over the balance of the document.
20. The Council of Australian Governments (**COAG**) agreed on 13 March 2020 to establish a National Cabinet, comprising the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers, to coordinate and manage Australia's response to COVID-19 across state and territory governments and the Commonwealth Government. By the agreement of all members, the National Cabinet is constituted as a Commonwealth Cabinet Office Policy Committee and operates according to longstanding conventions of Cabinet government, including the guiding principles of collective responsibility and solidarity. All proceedings and documentation of the National Cabinet remain strictly confidential.

**Question 1: How and to whom was the Prime Minister's offer of ADF support on 27 March 2020 conveyed?**

***Public statements***

21. As set out above, the National Cabinet comprises the Prime Minister and all State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers. The National Cabinet met on 27 March 2020.
22. On 27 March 2020, following the National Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister issued a media release<sup>3</sup> announcing, among other things, that the National Cabinet had agreed certain arrangements relating to travellers returning from overseas. The media release included the following statements:
- a. From 11:59pm Saturday 28 March 2020, 'all travellers arriving in Australia will be required to undertake their mandatory 14 day self-isolation at designated facilities (for example, a hotel).'

---

<sup>3</sup> Attachment 3 – Prime Minister's Media Release dated 27 March 2020.

- b. 'Designated facilities will be determined by the relevant state or territory government and will ordinarily be in the city of entry where the traveller has cleared immigration, but facilities in other areas may be used if required.'
  - c. 'These requirements will be implemented under state and territory legislation and will be enforced by state and territory governments, with the support of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Australian Border Force (ABF) where necessary.'
  - d. 'The Commonwealth will provide support through the ABF and ADF for these arrangements across Australia, and that states and territories would meet the costs and determine any contributions required for travellers arriving within their jurisdiction.'
    - 'The Australian Defence Force will begin assisting state and territory governments to undertake quarantine compliance checks of those who are required to be in mandatory isolation after returning from overseas.'
  - e. 'ADF personnel will bolster local police efforts in visiting the homes and residences of Australians who are in mandatory isolation as directed by state and territory governments and will report to the local police whether the identified individual was at the residence.'
  - f. 'ADF assistance will be provided under the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community arrangements'.
23. On 27 March 2020, the Prime Minister reiterated the Commonwealth offer of ADF assistance in a press conference:<sup>4</sup>

*...we will be supporting them [states and territories] also by providing members of the Australian Defence Force to assist in the compliance with these [quarantine] arrangements. Now, I want to stress that members of the Australian Defence Force are not authorised as enforcement officers regarding prosecution in states and territories. That is the responsibility of law enforcement officers so sworn in those jurisdictions. The ADF will be there to support those enforcement authorities. And so we will be turning out the defence forces to support compliance with these new arrangements. It will require that cooperative and facilitative support and I have no doubt the defence forces will do that in the most sensitive way they can, but it is necessary.*

*The other thing we are doing is we will be supporting the states and territories in the important work they have of enforcing the existing isolation arrangements for people who are already here. The ADF will be supporting those states and territories with compliance checks to ensure that people are at their residences, that they have so sworn that they would be at. To ensure we get compliance with the self-isolation. Again, if there is a situation where people are non-compliant, of course the enforcement authority is the state jurisdiction and the relevant law enforcement agency in that state. But the*

---

<sup>4</sup> Attachment 4 – Transcript of Prime Minister's Press Conference on 27 March 2020.

*ADF will be there to put boots on the ground, to support them in their enforcement efforts, and I thank the ADF for their great support in turning up to this task. We believe these important actions are the most important we can take right now because of what you've done, Australia.*

24. On 27 March 2020, in the context of commenting on mandatory quarantine arrangements for returned travellers, Premier Andrews issued a press release stating that 'the Australian Defence Force will be engaged to support the implementation of these arrangements'.<sup>5</sup>
25. On 29 March 2020, the Minister for Defence issued a media release reaffirming that the ADF was ready to assist all states and territories at short notice, which included the following statements:<sup>6</sup>

*The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has deployed teams across the country to work in partnership with state and territory law enforcement agencies to conduct COVID-19 quarantine compliance checks.*

*The ADF will provide logistics support for the state and territory police as they enforce mandatory quarantine and isolation measures.*

...

*The ADF is working with other state and territory authorities to determine their support requirements and stand ready to provide that support at short notice.*

...

*Assistance from the ADF is coordinated through the Emergency Management Australia-led Whole-of-Government response to COVID-19.*

26. On 1 April 2020, the Minister for Defence issued a media release titled 'Expansion of ADF support to COVID-19 Assist',<sup>7</sup> which included the following statements:

*There are already around 570 ADF members providing support including contact tracing, planning assistance, and assisting police with mandatory quarantine arrangements for international air arrivals.*

...

*The COVID-19 pandemic requires a proactive national response and Defence is well postured to provide scalable support to states and territories, as needed, for the duration of this effort.*

...

*Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC said Defence capability and capacity is ready, willing and able to assist where required.*

---

<sup>5</sup> Attachment 5 – Press Release of Premier Daniel Andrews dated 27 March 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Attachment 6 – Media Release of Minister for Defence dated 29 March 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Attachment 7 – Media Release of Minister for Defence dated 1 April 2020.



...

*"There is no higher priority for the ADF at this time. We are here for the people of Australia," General Campbell said.*

**Commonwealth Government liaison with Victoria**

27. Following the Prime Minister's public announcement on 27 March 2020, non-ADF Commonwealth officials liaised with Victorian officials about the availability of ADF resources to assist.
28. In particular, on 8 April 2020 the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Phil Gaetjens, sent an email to the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mr Chris Eccles AO.<sup>8</sup> That email stated:

*On the question of assistance with security, I am advised the only deal with NSW was in-kind provision of ADF personnel. I am sure the Commonwealth would be willing to assist Victoria if you wanted to reconsider your operating model.*

On 8 April 2020, Mr Eccles replied to Mr Gaetjens:

*thanks Phil.*

29. When the COVID-19 case numbers began to escalate in Victoria by the end of June 2020, the Prime Minister wrote to Premier Andrews on three separate occasions (4 July 2020, 6 July 2020 and 11 July 2020) reaffirming the Commonwealth's preparedness to continue the provision of ADF support to Victoria as needed. Premier Andrews expressed his appreciation for the Commonwealth's continued efforts in meeting previous requests for assistance, including ADF assistance (letters dated 5 July 2020, 7 July 2020, 12 July 2020 and 14 July 2020).

**Question 2: With which Victorian authorities, and when, did the ADF discuss Victoria's requirements?**

30. As noted above, the ADF was working with EMV before the National Cabinet meeting on 27 March 2020 and had embedded a Senior ADF Liaison Officer within EMV from 23 March 2020. From 22 March 2020, Brigadier Burr maintained frequent and constructive engagement with the EMV Commissioner.
31. By the National Cabinet meeting on 27 March 2020, the ADF had seven officers embedded across:
  - a. EMV, and
  - b. the Victorian Department of Health and Human Servicesto help facilitate expected requests for ADF support.
32. On 27 March 2020, following the Prime Minister's announcement, the CDF issued orders to prepare 100 personnel in each large state (and 50 in smaller states and

---

<sup>8</sup> Attachment 8 – Email from Mr Philip Gaetjens to Mr Chris Eccles AC on 8 April 2020.

territories) to support expected quarantine compliance monitoring requests. This was an initial number of personnel to be available for an immediate response.

33. Both Queensland and New South Wales authorities made requests following the 27 March 2020 announcement for ADF personnel to support the mandatory hotel quarantine arrangements.
34. In New South Wales, ADF personnel began supporting the reception of international arrivals at Sydney Airport and undertaking quarantine compliance monitoring at hotels on 28 March 2020. Over the course of that week, ADF support in New South Wales grew to approximately 360 members.
35. In Queensland, ADF personnel began supporting reception of international arrivals at Brisbane airport on 28 March 2020 and supported quarantine compliance monitoring at hotels from 31 March 2020. Over the course of that week, support grew to a just over 100 members.

***Liaison between ADF and Victorian agencies between March and May 2020***

36. The ADF was involved in early planning with responsible Victorian agencies on the implementation of National Cabinet's 27 March 2020 direction regarding mandatory self-isolation of returning overseas travellers. Reporting from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 shows that the ADF regularly checked with relevant Victorian agencies as to whether ADF assistance was required.
37. On 28 March 2020, the daily situational report (which covers the preceding 24 hours) prepared by the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>9</sup>

*JTG 629.2 has continued to [sic] engagement with key leaders at both Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and Victoria Police (VICPOL). VICPOL is well advanced in the planning and preparation to execute the National direction on Quarantine Compliance with the VICPOL State Operational Plan, which is expected to be approved by the VICPOL Commissioner over the weekend. This plan does not presently include, or require, ADF FE involvement. Once the VICPOL State Operational Plan has been approved by the VICPOL Commissioner, it has been agreed to then review how ADF could integrate and support. Generally, ADF support will be viewed by VICPOL as a "back-of-house" function and, at this stage of planning and response, does not include direct involvement from ADF with the public.*

38. On 29 March 2020, the daily situational report prepared by the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>10</sup>

*HQ JTG 629.2 LO teams are working closely with both State Control Centre (SCC)/Emergency Management VIC (EMV) and Victoria Police (VICPOL) on*

---

<sup>9</sup> Attachment 9 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 28 March 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Attachment 10 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 29 March 2020.

*extant Quarantine Compliance operations and planning. Generally, across all agencies there is confidence in the current compliance situation in VIC.*

*VICPOL senior leadership have confirmed the situation at Melbourne Airport is calm and ongoing compliance of returned travellers is good. At this point contracted security is supporting designated accommodation facilities. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have reported that the electronic messaging and reporting system of all travellers from 8 Mar 20 onwards who are undergoing quarantine and isolation is working well, with positive compliance. Nonetheless, we are reviewing our ESF's preparations and NTM to ensure we can respond to tasking as determined, requested and approved through extant DACC procedures, from this evening onwards. Further, our LO teams continue to work with EMV to explore potential support to Quarantine Compliance*

39. As indicated in paragraph 25 above, on 29 March 2020, the Minister for Defence issued a media release reiterating the ADF's readiness to support the states and territories, including that:

*The ADF is working with other state and territory authorities to determine their support requirements and stand ready to provide that support at short notice.*

40. On 30 March 2020, the daily situational report prepared by the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>11</sup>

*EMV OP SOTERIA (returning passenger enforced quarantine) is progressing well with no requirement for ADF 'boots on ground' support.*

41. On 31 March 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>12</sup>

*In Victoria we are seeing minimal requests for ADF support. CJTG629.2 has advised that their routine engagements with the State Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) indicates that he is satisfied that the control arrangements implemented by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the Control Agency for the Class 2 COVID-19 emergency are effective. It is also assessed that the EMC is satisfied with the actions of all other government agencies supporting the Control Agency.*

*Emergency Management VIC (EMV) Op SOTERIA (management of international arrivals into VIC) has been progressing well, with less numbers than expected. There were 321 International arrivals yesterday and an expectation of 200 today. Expected to be 1,000 pax total by tomorrow, predominantly held at Crown. There continues to be no requests for ADF assistance in the execution of this Operation.*

42. On 31 March 2020, Major General Paul Kenny participated in a teleconference with the state and territory police commissioners, to provide an update on the support

---

<sup>11</sup> Attachment 11 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 30 March 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Attachment 12 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 31 March 2020.

that Operation COVID-19 Assist was providing to each state and territory. Major General Kenny included in his update a report on the ADF's successful support to police in Queensland and New South Wales to execute their respective mandatory hotel quarantine for returning international travellers operations.

43. On 1 April 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>13</sup>

*Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring: No change from JTF SITREP CAA 3300Z Mar 20. JTG629.2 FE remain on standby to support requests from VICPOL.*

44. On 2 April 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>14</sup>

*Quarantine Compliance Monitoring: JTG629.1 provided five personnel to VICPOL AM 02 Apr 20 to conduct quarantine compliance monitoring. Personnel are employed in administrative roles.*

45. On 2 April 2020, Victoria Police requested ADF support to assist the Victoria Police Assistance Line in Ballarat to triage calls received from members of the public reporting quarantine compliance breaches and their Operation Sentinel help desk. Fourteen ADF members supported this task until May 2020. This was the only support the ADF provided to quarantine compliance monitoring in Victoria during this period of time.

46. On 3 April 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>15</sup>

*Quarantine Compliance Monitoring: No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.*

47. On 12 April 2020, Brigadier Burr emailed Major General Kenny regarding the extension of Victoria's State of Emergency.<sup>16</sup> Brigadier Burr informed Major General Kenny that Victoria Police had advised that current quarantine compliance monitoring activities 'remain within Victoria Police's capabilities and capacity.'

48. On 14 April 2020, Major General Kenny participated in a second telephone conference with state and territory police commissioners in which he again updated them on ADF support to the state and territory governments. During the teleconference he highlighted the particular success of interagency operations between the ADF and New South Wales Police in regards to quarantine compliance.

---

<sup>13</sup> Attachment 13 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 1 April 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Attachment 14 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 2 April 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Attachment 15 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 3 April 2020.

<sup>16</sup> Attachment 16 – Email from Brigadier Burr to Major General Kenny on 12 April 2020.

49. On 17 April 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>17</sup>

*The State of Victoria's ability to accept returning Australians from overseas is nearing planned capacity of ~4000 people. Despite this there are presently no indicators that ADF assistance will be requested in the near term. I will keep a close watch on this space.*

50. On 18 April 2020, the daily situational report from the ADF Joint Task Force 629 stated:<sup>18</sup>

*COVID-19 State Emergency Management. Stage Three (3) restrictions (announced on 30 Mar 20) remain in force. The State of Emergency in Victoria has been extended until 11 May 20 to give the Victorian Government the powers it needs to keep slowing the spread of coronavirus. Emergency Management Victoria's (EMV) current focus is now the management and monitoring of quarantined repatriated personnel in hotels. Planning within the EMV is now beginning to dedicate effort to monitoring and sourcing PPE for the Health sector and establishing the framework to support distribution.*

51. On 14 May 2020, Major General Kenny visited Victoria to conduct key leader engagement with senior Victorian authorities including the Deputy Commissioner of Victoria Police and the EMV Commissioner. During these discussions the EMV Commissioner said to Major General Kenny words to the following effect:

*The situation in Victoria has improved to such an extent that it is unlikely that Victoria would need any further ADF support except planners inside of EMV.*

***Request for Assistance on 24 June 2020***

52. On 24 June 2020 at 8.15am, Mr Eccles sent an email to Mr Gaetjens, which stated:<sup>19</sup>

*...the Premier and Prime Minister discussed last night the support that might be provided by the ADF in relation to the current outbreaks in Victoria. The categories of requested support follow.*

53. The categories of support requested included operational coordination and planning support, medical and coordination staff to support drive through testing, and relevantly:

***Security support services for hotel operations***

*Similar to support provided in NSW, ADF security support for passengers entering and exiting hotel quarantine is sought.*

*Personnel request: between 50-100 personnel.*

---

<sup>17</sup> Attachment 17 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 17 April 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Attachment 18 – JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19, 18 April 2020.

<sup>19</sup> Attachment 19 – Email from Mr Eccles to Mr Gaetjens on 24 June 2020.

54. On 24 June 2020 at 8.03pm, the EMV Commissioner sent an email to officials at the EMA and the ADF attaching three Requests for Assistance.<sup>20</sup> One of those Requests for Assistance sought up to 850 ADF personnel to support hotel quarantine compliance.<sup>21</sup>

55. On 24 June 2020 at 8.52pm, an EMA official replied to the EMV Commissioner advising that:

*Defence has accepted all tasks per RFA013, RFA014 and RFA015 without cost recovery.*

56. On 25 June 2020, the EMV Commissioner sent an email to EMA and the ADF which stated:

*Based on changing operational and resourcing requirements I am writing to advise you that Victoria no longer wishes to progress RFA015, the request for up to 850 resources to support our hotel quarantine operation (Op Soteria).*

*Thank you for your efforts in progressing this request and as always, we sincerely appreciate the support of EMA and the ADF.*

57. At a press conference on 26 June 2020, in response to a question from a journalist, the Prime Minister stated:<sup>22</sup>

*...On the issue of the Defence Force deployment to Victoria, I had a discussion on, well, several discussions, many discussions with the Premier over the course of this week going back to last Saturday and talking of what the issues were. The medical expert panel met on the Sunday. There was a review of where there may be gaps that we might have to assist with and they were then operationalised. I spoke to the Premier on Tuesday night and he set out a number of areas where they would need support. That actually didn't include the issues around that large number of 1,000 for the quarantine. That was a further request that came the following day, as I understand from officials, and that was a request that was subsequently withdrawn, I assume as a result of further discussions by officials in Victoria. But the point is this. Where any state needs some support here, then we will provide it. And these situations can be quite fluid and the needs can change in a short period of time if they didn't end up needing that additional support and that can be done by their police service, well, good. But if they needed additional support from the Federal Government, then it would have been there...*

**Question 3: On how many and what further occasions, and in what form, did ADF officials ask whether Victorian authorities required assistance with its [Hotel Quarantine] program?**

58. This question is addressed in the Commonwealth's response to question 2 above.

---

<sup>20</sup> Attachment 20 – Emails between EMV Commissioner, EMA and ADF on 24 and 25 June 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Attachment 21 – Request for Assistance 015.

<sup>22</sup> Attachment 22 – Transcript of Prime Minister's press conference on 26 June 2020.

**Question 4: From whom and how was the Victorian authorities' advice that Victoria was not seeking ADF assistance conveyed on:**

**a. 28 March 2020:**

59. This question is addressed in the Commonwealth's response to question 2 above.

**b. 12 April 2020:**

60. This question is addressed in the Commonwealth's response to question 2 above.

**Question 5: With which Victorian authorities, and in what form, did the ADF share its observations on best practice quarantine compliance on 14 April 2020?**

61. This question is addressed in the Commonwealth's response to question 2 above.

**Concluding remarks**

---

62. Following the Prime Minister's public announcement on 27 March 2020 that:

*the Australian Defence Force will begin assisting state and territory governments to undertake quarantine compliance checks of those who are required to be in mandatory isolation after returning from overseas*

the Commonwealth has been clear in its preparedness to provide ADF support to Victoria.

63. ADF support in Victoria, and the offer to provide additional assistance, continues and has been flexible over time. This is demonstrated by the Minister for Defence's media release dated 31 July 2020.<sup>23</sup> As at 25 August 2020, there were 1753 ADF members assigned to Defence's Joint Task Group in Victoria. ADF members are supporting a range of tasks including welfare and quarantine checks, COVID-19 testing, the operations of Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, as well as supporting police vehicle check points and providing logistics and planning support to the Department of Health and Human Services.
64. The Commonwealth remains committed to protecting the health and safety of all Australians including by working collaboratively with the States and Territories to support their pandemic responses to achieve the best outcome for all Australians.

---

<sup>23</sup> Attachment 23 – Media Release of Minister for Defence dated 31 July 2020.



# INDEX OF DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION

	Document name	Document date
1.	CDF TASKORD 2020-028	
2.	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan	2017
3.	Prime Minister's media release	27 March 2020
4.	Transcript of Prime Minister's press conference	27 March 2020
5.	Premier Andrews' media release	27 March 2020
6.	Minister for Defence's media release	29 March 2020
7.	Minister for Defence's media release	1 April 2020
8.	Email from Mr Philip Gaetjens to Mr Chris Eccles AC	8 April 2020
9.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	28 March 2020
10.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	29 March 2020
11.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	30 March 2020
12.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	31 March 2020
13.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	1 April 2020
14.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	2 April 2020
15.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	3 April 2020
16.	Email from Brigadier Burr to Major General Kenny	12 April 2020
17.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	17 April 2020
18.	JTF629 Daily Situational Report to HQJOC- COVID19	18 April 2020
19.	Email from Mr Eccles to Mr Gaetjens	24 June 2020

20.	Emails between EMV Commissioner, EMA and ADF	24 and 25 June 2020
21.	Request for Assistance 015	24 June 2020
22.	Transcript of Prime Minister's press conference	26 June 2020
23	Media Release of Minister for Defence	31 July 2020

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

From CDF AUSTRAL A

DTG: 270726Z MAR 2020

Releaser ✓ DDMC DR/CDF AUSTRAL A

Action CJOPS AJUST CN AUSTRAL A CACANBERRA CAF CANBERRA HQJCG

Priority

Info VCDF AUSTRAL A MSC HQJOC HQJOC AOC JLC OPS ARMY HQ 1 JMU

Priority

NHQ AUSTRAL A ACAUST JOSS ACT JOSS NQ JOSS NSW JOSS NT

JOSS SA JOSS SQ JOSS TAS JOSS WA

FRAGO 2 TO CDF EXECUTO 2020/003 OP COVID-19 ASSIST ADF SUPPORT TO STATE AND TERRITORY QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE KAQ

A. CDF EXECUTO 2020/003 - ADF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 - OP COVID-19 ASSIST, DATED 25 MAR 20.

B. PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT ON INCREASED COVID-19 RESPONSES, DATED 27 MAR 20.

C. SROE SERAFVE, DATED 18 NOV 14.

D. ADF ENDORSED SCRIPT TO THE PUBLIC.

## 1. SITUATION.

1.A. IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING HEALTH RISKS POSED BY COVID-19, AND INCREASING DOMESTIC QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS, THE PM ANNOUNCED THE USE OF ADF PERSONNEL TO ASSIST STATE AND TERRITORY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE.

1.B. WHEN REQUESTED, THE ADF WILL PROVIDE EACH OF THE LARGER STATES WITH UP TO 100 PERSONNEL AND EACH OF THE SMALLER STATES AND TERRITORIES WITH UP TO 50 PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THE CHECKING OF SELF-ISOLATION ORDERS IN HOMES AND RESIDENCES QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE UNDER DACC 6 ARRANGEMENTS. THE SCALE OF ADF SUPPORT TO NEW ARRIVALS INTO AUSTRALIA WILL BE DETERMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS FOR EACH PREMISE IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND TERRITORY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

1.C. ADF PERSONNEL CONDUCTING THE TASK ARE TO BE DRAWN FROM OCA ADF UNITS AND ORGANISATIONS WITHIN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY, AND UNDER THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF CJTF 629 STATE AND TERRITORY BASED JTGS.

1.D. SUPPORT TO QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE WITHIN AUSTRALIA WILL BE CONDUCTED IN SUPPORT OF AND COORDINATED BY THE STATE OR TERRITORY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. THE ADF ARE NOT EMPOWERED OR AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

## 2. MESSAGE. NO CHANGE.

## 3. EXECUTION.

3.A. COMMANDERS INTENT. NO CHANGE.

## 3.B. TASKS.

3.B.1. VCDF (HMSC) IS TO COORDINATE DACC6 REQUESTS AND MOUS WITH EACH STATE AND TERRITORY THROUGH THE JOSS.

3.B.2. CJOPS IS TO:

3.B.2.A. DEPLOY ADF PERSONNEL IN SUPPORT OF STATE AND TERRITORY POLICE TO CONDUCT QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE CHECKS WITHIN AUSTRALIA.

3.B.2.B. IMPLEMENT AND BREF CONTROL MEASURES TO PROTECT THE FORCE IN CARRYING OUT THE DIRECTED TASKS IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

3.B.2.C. BPT SUSTAIN ADF SUPPORT TO THIS TASK FOR 90 DAYS.

3.B.3. SERVICE CHIEFS ARE TO FORCE ASSIGN PERSONNEL AND CAPABILITY AS REQUESTED BY CJOPS.

3.B.4. CJC IS TO:

3.B.4.A. FORCE ASSIGN PERSONNEL AND CAPABILITY AS REQUESTED BY CJOPS.

3.B.4.B. (CJOG) PROVIDE LOGISTICS SUPPORT AS REQUESTED BY CJOPS.

3.B.4.B. (CJHEALTH) PROVIDE HEALTH ADVISE AND SUPPORT AS REQUESTED BY CJOPS.

3.B.5. DEPSEC E&amp; (JOSS) IS REQUESTED TO COORDINATE DACC 6 AND MOU WITH STATE AND TERRITORY POLICE ON 28 2359 MAR 20.

## 3.C. COORDINSTRUCTIONS.

3.C.1. TIMINGS.

3.C.1.A. ON 28 2359 OCA MAR 20 - ADF SUPPORT READY TO ASSIST TO STATE AND TERRITORY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN CONDUCTING QUARANTINE COMPLIANCE.

3.C.1.B. DURATION OF TASKS UNKNOWN. FURTHER GUIDANCE WILL BE ISSUED SEPCOR.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

## 3.C.2. TASK CONCEPT.

3.C.2.A. ADF PERSONNE , N GROUPS OF AT EAST TWO, W V S T DES GNATED PROPERT ES FOR THE PURPOSES OF ASS ST NG STATE OR TERR TORY C V AN AUTHOR T ES TO ENSURE COMP ANCE W TH STATE OR TERR TORY SSUED SO AT ON OR QUARANT NE ORDERS.

3.C.2.B. WHERE AN ND V DUA OR ND V DUA S WHO ARE AT THE PROPERTY CHOOSE NOT TO PRODUCE A FORM OF DENT F CAT ON OR OTHERW SE REFUSES TO COOPERATE, ADF MEMBERS ARE TO MMED ATE Y EAVE THE PROPERTY AND MMED ATE Y REPORT THE MATTER TO THE RE EVANT C V AN AUTHOR TY.

3.C.2.C. NON-COMP ANCE W TH SO AT ON OR QUARANT NE ORDERS ARE TO BE MMED ATE Y REPORTED TO THE RE EVANT C V AN AUTHOR TY.

3.C.2.D. CONF RMAT ON OF COMP ANCE W TH SO AT ON OR QUARANT NE ORDERS ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE RE EVANT C V AN AUTHOR TY.

3.C.2.E. ADF PERSONNE ARE TO USE THE APPROVED STANDARD ENGAGEMENT SCR PT AT REF D N COMP ET NG TH S TASK.

3.C.2.F. ADF PERSONNE CONDUCT NG COMP ANCE CHECKS ARE TO ENSURE THEY COMP Y W TH EXTANT ADF PO CY AND PROCEDURES REGARD NG SOC A D STANC NG AND USE OF PPE.

3.C.2.G. ADF PERSONNE WHO BE EVE THE R CONTACT OR EXPOSURE TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY NFECTED W TH COV D-19 HAS ENDANGERED THE R PERSONA HEA TH ARE REQU RED TO MMED ATE Y NFORM THE R CHA N OF COMMAND AND COMP Y W TH EXTANT ADF PO CY AND PROCEDURE ON SO AT ON, QUARANT NE AND REPORT NG.

## 3.C.3. EGA .

3.C.3.A. GENERA . THE ADF W DEP OY UNDER DACC 6 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TH S TASK. THE ADF TEAMS HAVE NO EGA AUTHOR TY TO ENFORCE (OR COERCE) THE COMP ANCE CHECK.

3.C.3.B. THE ADF MEMBER ARE ON Y BE AB E TO V S T AND ENTER PR VATE PROPERTY (NOT ENTER PREM SES) AND STATE THE R PURPOSE - QUOTE SUPPORT TO PO CE N THE CONDUCT OF QUARANT NE COMP ANCE CHECKS END QUOTE. WHERE AN ADF MEMBER S FACED W TH NSTANCES OF NON-COMP ANCE, OR OBJECT ON, FROM THE PUB C, THE ADF MEMBER WOU D BE REQU RED TO NOTE THE OUTCOME OF THE R COMP ANCE CHECK, EAVE THE PREM SES, AND REPORT TO THE C V AN AUTHOR T ES FOR FO OW-UP.

3.C.3.C. ROE. AW REF C. USE OF FORCE S NOT PERM TTED, EXCEPT N CASES OF SE F-DEFENCE.

## 4. ADM N AND OG.

4.A. MED A. THE ENDORSED MED A TA K NG PO NTS FOR SUPPORT TO TH S TASK S:

4.A.1. THE AUSTRA AN DEFENCE FORCE S CURRENT Y ASS ST NG W TH P ANN NG AND CONTACT TRAC NG AS PART OF THE WHO E-OF-GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE COV D-19 PANDEM C.

4.A.2. DEFENCE HAS PREPARED RESPONSES TO A RANGE OF CONT NGENC ES THROUGH THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRA A- ED RESPONSE.

4.A.3. BEG NN NG NO ATER THAN M DN GHT SATURDAY, THE ADF W ASS ST THE STATES AND TERR TOR ES N TWO WAYS: BY SUPPORT NG MANDATORY QUARANT NE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A R ARR VA S NTO AUSTRA A AND BY CHECK NG SE F- SO AT ON ORDERS ARE BE NG FO OWED N HOMES AND RES DENCES.

4.A.4. THE ADF W NOT BE AUTHOR SED AS AW ENFORCEMENT OFF CERS, TH S S THE RESPON B TY OF THE STATES AND TERR TOR ES.

4.B. F NANCE. COST CAPTURE S TO BE AW PARA 4.A.1.B AT REF A. COST RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TH S TASKS ARE TBC. FURTHER GU DANCE TO FO OW ON RECE PT OF D RECT ON.

## 5. COMMAND AND S GNA . NO CHANGE.

## 6. POC.

6.A. MSC - TCO KEN GO DER / CMDR STAN BUCKHAM, MSC.DOMEST C@DEFENCE.GOV.AU, 02 6265 2550 OR 02 6266 7516.

6.B. HQJOC - WATCH COMMANDER, HQJOCJOR.WATCHCMD@DEFENCE.GOV.AU, 02 6128 4331.

## 7. AUTH. COMD DEFENCE COV D-19 TASK FORCE.



**Australian Government**

---

---

# COMDISPLAN 2017

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN

---



## CONTENTS

---

AUTHORITY .....	3
DOCUMENT CONTROL .....	4
SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION .....	5
1.1. AIM .....	5
1.2. SCOPE .....	5
1.3. BACKGROUND .....	5
1.4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	6
SECTION 2 - RESPONSE.....	7
2.1. AUTHORITY TO REQUEST .....	7
2.2. RESPONSE PHASES AND ACTIVITIES.....	8
2.3. FLOW OF EVENTS - REQUEST FOR NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.....	9
2.4. MANAGEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESOURCES .....	10
2.5. LIAISON OFFICERS .....	10
2.6. COMMUNICATIONS .....	10
2.7. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	10
SECTION 3 - OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE .....	11
3.1. DOMESTIC .....	11
3.2. INTERNATIONAL.....	11
3.3. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.....	11
SECTION 4 - FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS .....	12
4.1. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	12
SECTION 5 - ANNEXES.....	13
5.1. ANNEX A – CAPABILITIES OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES .....	13
5.2. ANNEX B – REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
5.3. ANNEX C – REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PRO-FORMA.....	17

---

---

## AUTHORITY

---

The Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) is the plan for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in an emergency or disaster. The Minister with responsibility for emergency management must authorise approval for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance.

COMDISPLAN 2014 was endorsed by Director General Emergency Management Australia (DGEMA) and approved by the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department on 12 January 2014.

Director General  
Emergency Management Australia

---

## AMENDMENTS

---

Recommendations for amendments or suggestions for improvement may be forwarded to:

Director General  
Emergency Management Australia  
Department of Home Affairs  
PO Box 25 Belconnen ACT 2616

---

## VERSION DETAIL

---

In December 2017 COMDISPLAN underwent an administrative review to reflect Machinery of Government changes. COMDISPLAN 2017 supersedes all previous versions and was endorsed by DGEMA on 20 December 2017.



---

## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

---

---

### 1.1. AIM

---

- 1.1.1. COMDISPLAN outlines the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency within Australia or its offshore territories.

---

### 1.2. SCOPE

---

- 1.2.1. The term 'non-financial assistance' refers, but is not limited to: planning expertise, provision of mapping services, counselling, advice, management of external resources and physical assistance. Annex A provides an overview of capabilities that Australian Government agencies can typically provide.
- 1.2.2. Under COMDISPLAN an affected jurisdiction encompasses mainland Australian states and territories and the offshore territories of: Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard and McDonald Islands, Jervis Bay and Norfolk Island.

---

### 1.3. BACKGROUND

---

- 1.3.1. Australian state and territory governments have responsibility for coordinating and planning for the response to and recovery from a disaster within their borders. When the total resources (government, community and commercial) of an affected jurisdiction cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation the nominated official can seek non-financial assistance from the Australian Government under COMDISPLAN. The Australian Government accepts responsibility and prepares plans for providing Australian Government non-financial assistance in response to such requests.
- 1.3.2. Emergency Management Australia (EMA), through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC), continuously monitors and informs stakeholders on situations that may affect Australian jurisdictions.
- 1.3.3. In line with standing plans and arrangements the CCC develops whole of Australian Government response options for disasters or emergencies within Australian jurisdictions.

---

## 1.4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

---

- 1.4.1. COMDISPLAN may be used for the provision of approved Australian Government non-financial assistance.
- 1.4.2. COMDISPLAN can be activated for any disaster or emergency regardless of the cause.
- 1.4.3. COMDISPLAN acknowledges and complements existing agreements (such as bilateral arrangements) between jurisdictions, and in some instances international agencies.
- 1.4.4. In some circumstances locally based Australian Government resources may be deployed in support of local authorities for limited periods without the need to activate COMDISPLAN. This may include the provision of Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) category one, which is activated for a set period of time under local arrangements.
- 1.4.5. Contingency planning prior to a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance is undertaken in the 'STANDBY' phase of COMDISPLAN.
- 1.4.6. Before a request is made under COMDISPLAN a jurisdiction must have exhausted all government, community and commercial options to provide that effect.
- 1.4.7. The Australian Government will assess all requests for assistance and where approved will provide non-financial assistance.

## SECTION 2 - RESPONSE

### 2.1. AUTHORITY TO REQUEST

- 2.1.1. The authority to request Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN is vested in one nominated official in each jurisdiction. In their absence, the officer performing their role holds this delegation.
- 2.1.2. Nominated officials pass requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance to EMA for consideration by the DGEMA. Following receipt of Ministerial approval for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance for a particular disaster, the DGEMA is authorised to request any appropriate agency to undertake the task. These nominated officials are:

STATE/TERRITORY	NOMINATED OFFICIAL
New South Wales	State Emergency Operations Controller
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Management Commissioner - Victoria</li> <li>and</li> <li>Chief Commissioner of Police</li> </ul>
Queensland	Executive Officer Queensland Disaster Management Committee
South Australia	State Coordinator
Western Australia	Chair of the State Emergency Coordination Group
Tasmania	Executive Officer, State Emergency Management Committee and Executive
Northern Territory	Executive Officer, Northern Territory Counter-Disaster Council
Australian Capital Territory	Chair of the Security and Emergency Management Senior Officials Group
Norfolk Island	Chair of the Norfolk Island Emergency Management Committee
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	The Territory Controller, Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Christmas Island	The Territory Controller, Christmas Island
Jervis Bay	The Territory Controller, Jervis Bay

---

## 2.2. RESPONSE PHASES AND ACTIVITIES

---

COMDISPLAN consists of three phases:

- Standby
- Activated
- Deactivated.

**COMDISPLAN is maintained in STANDBY phase as the default status.**

### 2.2.1 STANDBY

Under STANDBY the following activities are undertaken:

- Monitoring of potential situations
- Planning for potential response
- Training and exercising.

### 2.2.2 ACTIVATED

Where an event/disaster is imminent, or has occurred, DGEMA activates COMDISPLAN in line with Section 2.3.

Under ACTIVATED the following activities are undertaken:

- The CCC advises appropriate stakeholders via email that COMDISPLAN has been ACTIVATED
- The CCC Crisis Coordination Team is stood up
- Request/s for assistance received by the Australian Government and approved by the Minister with responsibility for emergency management
- The CCC provides tasking requests to jurisdictions/agencies
- Jurisdictions/agencies in conjunction with the CCC will cooperatively undertake taskings where acceptable
- Jurisdiction/agency situation updates provided to the CCC on the agreed basis
- The CCC provides stakeholders with regular situational awareness.

### 2.2.3 DEACTIVATED

Event has concluded, DGEMA deactivates COMDISPLAN.

Under DEACTIVATED the following activities are undertaken:

- No further requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance are expected
- Resources returned to parent agent
- No further action expected
- CCC advises stakeholders via email on COMDISPLAN DEACTIVATED.

**COMDISPLAN reverts to STANDBY phase as the default condition upon completion of DEACTIVATION phase.**

---

---

### 2.3. FLOW OF EVENTS - REQUEST FOR NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

---

The following points show a typical activation of COMDISPLAN:

1. An event/disaster occurs, or is imminent.
2. Due to the nature, magnitude or duration of the event, the total resources (government, community and commercial) of the affected jurisdiction cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation.
3. The nominated official advises EMA of the intention to request Australian Government non-financial assistance under COMDISPLAN.
4. The DGEMA activates COMDISPLAN.
5. The jurisdiction forwards a signed request for Australian Government non-financial assistance to the CCC.
6. The CCC engages with appropriate agencies that can action the task request.
7. The DGEMA seeks approval of the task request from the Minister with responsibility for emergency management.
8. Once Ministerial approval is gained, CCC advises the jurisdiction that the task request has been approved.
9. The CCC forwards the task request to appropriate agency for action.
10. The tasked agency advises CCC of acceptance of task request and advises actions and timeline. EMA advises the jurisdiction of tasked agency acceptance of the task request and advises actions and timeline.
11. The tasked agency provides regular updates to CCC and relevant jurisdiction on status of task request.
12. The CCC regularly briefs Australian Government agencies and involved jurisdiction(s) on the status of task request.
13. The tasked agency briefs the CCC on the completion of task request.
14. The CCC advises jurisdictions and Australian Government stakeholders on completion of the task request.
15. The CCC advises the DGEMA of completion of all task requests and advises DGEMA to deactivate COMDISPLAN.
16. The DGEMA approves deactivation of COMDISPLAN.

---

## 2.4. MANAGEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

---

- 2.4.1. The deployed Australian Government resources remain the responsibility of the parent agency. The CCC will facilitate liaison and working arrangements with the requesting jurisdiction.
- 2.4.2. In certain circumstances, under the direction of the DGEMA, EMA may request the pre-positioning of Australian Government resources in advance of a disaster impact or a formal request for assistance to reduce response time.

---

## 2.5. LIAISON OFFICERS

---

- 2.5.1. Prior to or during an event the jurisdiction may request, or EMA may offer, to deploy an EMA Liaison Officers (EMALOs) to the jurisdiction to assist in the coordination of Australian Government non-financial assistance.
- 2.5.2. Prior to or during an event EMA may request liaison officers from Australian Government agencies and/or jurisdictions to be deployed to the CCC to assist in the coordination of Australian Government non-financial assistance.

---

## 2.6. COMMUNICATIONS

---

- 2.6.1. While initial contact and liaison on matters relating to COMDISPLAN may be made by telephone, the primary means of communication between EMA and stakeholders will be by email. Alternative communication arrangements will be coordinated by EMA as the situation demands. All telephone requests are to be confirmed by email as soon as possible.
- 2.6.2. Ongoing communications between EMA and relevant agencies should be supported by the provision of regular situation reports.
- 2.6.3. It is the responsibility of agencies to provide EMA with appropriate contact details and to arrange internal distribution messages. All correspondence related to requests for non-financial assistance is documented by EMA.

---

## 2.7. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

---

- 2.7.1. Australian Government media releases, or interaction with media, about the activation status of COMDISPLAN, and to the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance, will be made by the Minister with responsibility for emergency management, their delegate or DGEMA. Australian Government agencies drafting media releases relating to assistance provided in response to COMDISPLAN taskings are to copy the releases to Department of Home Affairs media and EMA.

## SECTION 3 - OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE

---

---

### 3.1. DOMESTIC

---

- 3.1.1. If the CCC receives offers of domestic assistance the CCC will record relevant information and forward these offers onto the appropriate jurisdiction or agency for consideration.

---

### 3.2. INTERNATIONAL

---

- 3.2.1. During an event where international non-financial assistance is provided EMA will adhere to the Arrangements for International Reception.

---

### 3.3. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

---

- 3.3.1. Where resources to meet a particular need are not available in Australia, EMA in consultation with the affected jurisdiction, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) will seek international assistance as necessary through the appropriate channels.
- 3.3.2. EMA will coordinate the movement of non-financial assistance to the affected jurisdiction in line with the Arrangements for International Reception.



## SECTION 4 - FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

---

---

### 4.1. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

---

- 4.1.1. The Australian Government does not normally seek financial reimbursement from jurisdictions for assistance provided under COMDISPLAN. However, when Australian Government assistance is provided for tasks not directly related to the safety of life and property or that could be handled by jurisdiction resources (e.g. clean-up teams) the Australian Government may seek reimbursement from the affected jurisdiction.
- 4.1.2. Unless the Task Request to the agency clearly states that costs are recoverable, costs incurred to fulfil the request will be absorbed by that agency. Where Australian Government agency resources are inadequate, either because of insufficient funds or lack of a suitable appropriation item on which to call, no financial commitments can be entered into or expenditure incurred unless authorised by the PM&C, in accordance with the current version of the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF).
- 4.1.3. Where an agency is tasked to provide a response capability, the criteria for cost recovery will be clearly defined within the formal Task Request. Any ambiguity relating to reimbursement should be clarified prior to acceptance of tasking.

## SECTION 5 - ANNEXES

### 5.1. ANNEX A – CAPABILITIES OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Resource
<b>Airservices</b>	Airservices provides Australian aviation traffic management including air traffic control and aeronautical information services. This includes aviation navigation and communication services and an extensive national footprint and communications network, including terrestrial resources and digital radio communications. Airservices also provides Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting services at major airports.
<b>Attorney-General's Department (AGD)</b>	AGD can provide interpretation of legal documentation and matters, and provide legal advice through the Office of Corporate Counsel, Office of International Law and the Australian Government Solicitor.
<b>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)</b>	ABS provides population and other statistical and reference information.
<b>Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission (ACCC)</b>	ACCC provides a video conferencing network covering state capitals and Townsville and is the statutory authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the <i>Trade Practices Act</i> (1974).
<b>Australian Federal Police (AFP)</b>	AFP coordinates the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) capability as per the Australian DVI Activation and Response Plan. AFP also provides general and or specialist policing assistance as agreed through the memorandum of understanding that exists between the signatories of the Police Assistance in Neighbouring States/Territories in Australia.
<b>Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)</b>	AMSA maintains a 24/7 Rescue Coordination Centre with an aviation and maritime communication capability and picture for search and rescue planning and response. This includes air drop capability over land and sea and Distress Beacon locating over land, sea, ice and air. AMSA also provides marine pollution identification, monitoring and dispersal, maritime ship casualty response and emergency towage and the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information.
<b>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)</b>	ARPANSA is postured 24/7 to provide specialist technical advice and operational field support if requested to assist during a nuclear or radiological incident. This includes operational planning support, deployment of technical assets and the provision of geospatial products across all elements of the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases of an event. ARPANSA is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)-designated national authority for radiation emergencies both domestic and overseas.
<b>Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)</b>	ATSB provides advice on transport safety matters including, but not limited to, occupational health and safety and site security aspects of transport accident sites.
<b>Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)</b>	CASA can provide advice on aviation safety regulatory matters, implement safety-related actions in accordance with CASA's functions (eg: establishing a temporary restricted area to limit/control aviation activity in the interests of public safety, as required), provide technical advice and support to other agencies (including on the safe transport and carriage of dangerous goods by air), grant permission for the air transport of dangerous goods not usually permitted for carriage by air, and approve the use of foreign registered aircraft in Australia.
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Agriculture provides advice and expertise on biosecurity, animal health and welfare, epidemiology, plant pests and diseases, introduced marine pests, food residues, pesticide use and response, native animal and pest animal issues. The Department can support linkages with state agricultural departments.

<b>Department of Communications and the Arts</b>	The Department of Communications and the Arts is responsible for policy advice and regulatory frameworks relating to the telecommunications, broadcasting and postal sectors; including spectrum allocation and the National Triple Zero Emergency Call Service. The national broadcasters (the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and SBS) provide emergency broadcasts.
<b>Department of Defence</b>	Defence has a range of military capabilities that may be called upon to provide assistance to the civil community in emergency situations, as required and as appropriate. In seeking assistance from Defence, the most effective method is to define or outline the outcome or result required (the effect to be achieved) rather than seek assistance of a specific capability. By defining the desired outcome, Defence can consider a broader range of available capabilities and can assign the most suitable and available assets to achieve the required result. Capabilities may include: logistics support including airlift (fixed and rotary wing aircraft), sealift, land transport, engineering and medical support, temporary accommodation, imagery, and communications.
<b>Department of Finance</b>	Finance is responsible for Government financial accountability, governance and financial management frameworks, procurement policy, and fostering the efficient and effective use of information and communications technologies by the Australian Government.
<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</b>	DFAT coordinates international offers of assistance, including liaison with foreign governments. DFAT also provides reverse consular assistance to foreign missions whose nationals are affected and disseminates accurate and timely information to foreign governments about a crisis internationally, through Australian missions abroad.
<b>Department of Health</b>	<p>Health develops and maintains national health emergency plans, including environmental health, communicable disease, mass casualty and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear incident management.</p> <p>Health's tasks and capabilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring emerging communicable disease issues and outbreaks.</li> <li>• Providing specialist technical advice and expertise, such as epidemiological information, advice on infection control measures, provision of medical specialists through the AUSMAT system</li> <li>• Coordinating multi-jurisdictional public health response measures</li> <li>• Managing implementation of human biosecurity and border health measures</li> <li>• Supporting communication with health sector partners and stakeholders, including activation of the National Health Emergency Media Response Network</li> <li>• Collaborating with the Australian Medical Transport Coordination Group</li> <li>• Meeting international health reporting obligations, particularly the International Health Regulations</li> <li>• Managing the National Medical Stockpile and coordinating the deployment of items, and</li> <li>• Providing information of the location and number of care recipients in aged care facilities and likely vacancies in the event of an evacuation or relocation.</li> </ul>

<b>Department of Home Affairs – Immigration and Border Protection and the Australian Border Force</b>	Divisions of the Department of Home Affairs assist with the sourcing of translation and interpretation services and provides liaison and advice relating to ethnic communities and the replacement of immigration documentation to clients. The Australian Border Force provides maritime and aviation search and surveillance support to AMSA as requested and within Maritime Border Command operational capabilities, and border facilitation of international assistance (resources and equipment). The 24/7 Border Operations Centre in Canberra can expedite entry of overseas personnel and equipment, if required.
<b>Department of Home Affairs – Office of Transport Security (OTS)</b>	OTS provides advice on transport security matters, assesses airport curfew dispensation requests, processes aviation cabotage (transport of goods and passengers) requests and assists in facilitating additional commercial airline resources or access to airports.
<b>Department of Human Services (DHS)</b>	DHS coordinates the provision of the National Emergency Call Centre Surge Capability (NECCSC) to assist States and Territories and other Government agencies as agreed through NECCSC agreements. DHS provides surge assistance in the form of service officers; social workers and other health and allied health professionals; mobile IT capability and support; mobile service centres; and live and interactive webcasting capability. (Note that arrangements involving the department are subject to the Secretary of the Department, or a delegated officer, authorising staff and/or resources to be in the field for a particular event).
<b>Department of Social Services (DSS)</b>	<p>DSS can provide advice on available programs to support adversely affected people, families or communities, and works closely with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on the delivery of payments. Some of DSS' programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Relief Services - provides support to address the immediate needs in a time of crisis e.g food vouchers and parcels, clothing, transport</li> <li>• Family Support Program - provides funding to non-government organisations to support families, particularly those who are vulnerable or living in disadvantaged communities, and</li> <li>• Humanitarian Settlement Services - provides accommodation and case management services to newly arrived refugees and migrants.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, DSS can assist with the facilitation of open dialogue between multicultural communities and the Government through the Department's Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) network.</p>
<b>Emergency Management Australia (EMA)</b>	EMA coordinates the provision of Australian Government non- financial assistance to Australian jurisdictions under COMDISPLAN. EMA maintains 24/7 all-hazards situational awareness and monitoring through the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC).
<b>Geoscience Australia</b>	Geoscience Australia can coordinate access to various satellite imagery, including detailed high-resolution imagery of impacted areas through the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters. This includes access to fundamental national mapping capabilities and historical datasets as well as detailed demographic reports (including structural, social and economic characteristics) to support recovery efforts and provide contextual information to jurisdictions regarding an impacted area.

## 5.2 ANNEX B – REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance may be phoned to EMA in the first instance, but must be confirmed by email from the nominated official. The format for requests is as follows:

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Event and nature of request being made.
<b>DATE:</b>	This must include the date and local time of the request.
<b>REQUEST ID:</b>	This should be a jurisdiction number that can be used for reference (EMA will allocate separate sequential numbers to each incoming request).
<b>SITUATION:</b>	A brief summary of the reason for the request.
<b>OWN RESOURCES:</b>	An explanation as to why the requirement cannot be met from within the jurisdiction's existing resources (local, government, commercial or other).
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	Time in which the request is asked to be fulfilled within e.g. urgent, within 24hrs.
<b>DELIVERY LOCATION:</b>	Details of when and where the assistance is required.
<b>TASK DESCRIPTION:</b>	<p>A brief description of the need and effect required.</p> <p>Requesting authorities should NOT specify the means for meeting the effect but should identify constraints that may influence EMA's decision (e.g. landing area unsuitable for all but rotary wing aircraft).</p>
<b>CONTACT NAME &amp; DETAILS:</b>	Full details of delivery point contact officer/s including name, location and telephone number as appropriate.
<b>APPROVED BY JURISDICTIONAL NOMINATED OFFICIAL:</b>	Name, title, contact details and signature.
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	Any general comments that may contribute to providing the fastest and most effective response to the request.

---

5.3 ANNEX C – REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NON-FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE PRO-FORMA

---

**REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**SUBJECT:**

**DATE:**

**REQUEST ID:**

**SITUATION:**

**OWN RESOURCES:**

**PRIORITY:**

**DELIVERY LOCATION:**

**TASK DESCRIPTION:**

**CONTACT NAME & DETAILS:**

**APPROVED BY NOMINATED JURISDICTIONAL OFFICIAL:**

**COMMENTS:**





## UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS MEASURES

# *MEDIA RELEASE*

*27 Mar 2020*

*Prime Minister*



Australian governments met today as the National Cabinet to take further action to slow the spread of coronavirus to save lives,

and to save livelihoods.

We will be living with this virus for at least six months, so social distancing measures to slow this virus down must be sustainable for at least that long to protect Australian lives, to help Australia to keep functioning and to keep Australians in jobs.

National Cabinet noted the latest statistics and medical advice in relation to COVID-19.

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

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

Testing keeps Australians safe. Australia has one of the most rigorous coronavirus testing systems in the world with more than 180,000 tests completed - more than the USA, France or the UK, which have much larger populations. Australia's per capita testing rate is amongst the highest in the world, now surpassing South Korea.

Intensive Care Units (ICU) will be critically important to protect the health of Australians. National Cabinet noted that Commonwealth, states and territories are working on increasing ICU and ventilator capacity - with surge capacity being prepared in the case of outbreaks.

National Cabinet received a comprehensive economic update from Treasury Secretary Dr Steven Kennedy. It noted the Commonwealth and states and territories have implemented major new economic support packages, but that even with these packages it is expected there will still be significant impacts on unemployment and economic activity.

National Cabinet thanked all Australians who are adhering to social distancing and self-isolation arrangements. Hygiene, social isolation and contact tracing are our most important measures to reduce the spread of the virus. We recognise this is a distressing time for Australians and we must stand together to ensure that we support each other.

We will continue to look at further measures as and where necessary to protect Australians. Any further measures to restrict activity may need to be flexible and calibrated to the extent of outbreaks by jurisdiction and the impact on the wellbeing of Australians and economics activity. Our goal is to start businesses and economic again after this health crisis has ended

National Cabinet will meet again on Sunday, 29 March 2020 and consider issues including responses to address. Commercial and residential tenancies and health supply arrangements

## Returning Travellers

Substantial numbers of returned travellers and small community outbreaks associated with travellers continue to contribute most of the significant further growth in COVID-19 cases in Australia.

In order to help drive down this concerning number of imported cases, National Cabinet has agreed to take action to further restrict the movement of incoming travellers and to increase compliance checks on travellers who are already undertaking their mandatory self-isolation period at home. This is about reducing the spread of the virus in Australia and saving lives

National Cabinet agreed that:



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

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

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

- Assistance to the states and territories to support contact tracing efforts.
- Supporting industry with the production of surgical masks.
- Provision of planning and logistics support to Commonwealth, state and territory agencies.
- Provision of personnel to other agencies, including Services Australia.
- Supporting the NT Police with border control operations.

- Assisting states and territories to support the production of food hampers to supply to isolated civilians.

## Statement on Schools by the National Cabinet

It is no longer business as usual for our schools, as we adapt to the impact of COVID-19.

We are now in a transition phase until the end of term as schools prepare for a new mode of operation following the school holidays.

For principals, teachers and support staff, the next few months will bring incredible challenges for our education system. We understand they need time to engage in the professional preparation and planning that is required to ensure that every child has access to education during this difficult time in a sustainable and effective manner for the rest of the 2020 school year.

Some states and territories have moved to pupil-free days already and each state and territory will come to their own transition arrangements with their workforce for the rest of this term.

While the medical advice remains that it is safe for children to go to school, to assist with the transition underway in our schools to the new mode of operation we ask that only children of workers for whom no suitable care arrangements are available at home to support their learning, physically attend school. This is vital to ensure that no parent should be forced to choose between their employment and the children's education.

We understand the need for clear, nationally consistent health and safety advice so we have asked the AHPPC to develop guidelines about how staff in schools can protect themselves, manage social distance requirements and cater for those students who are at school. This will include guidelines for staff who work with vulnerable children, particularly those who have additional needs.

For education staff who identify as high risk, vulnerable or are caring for vulnerable family members, you will be supported to work from home.

We will continue to meet with education stakeholders and unions so that we can understand the education challenges for our communities and work constructively towards solutions. That will include the National Cabinet's consideration of the measures needed for early childhood settings and TAFE.

## Partnering with private hospitals

National Cabinet agreed to the importance of a strong and viable private hospital sector to bolster Australia's response to COVID-19.

State and territory governments committed to urgently finalise arrangements with private hospitals under the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement by 29 March 2020, to ensure sufficient and viable capacity exists within the private hospital sector both through the COVID-19 response and on an ongoing basis.

The private hospital system can play an important role in supporting the acute and intensive care needs of infected Australians together with other continuing urgent care needs. The capacity of the private system for non COVID cases and for overflow, particularly from ICU facilities, may be critical to Australia's response.



PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

[Copyright](#)

[FOI Disclosure Log](#)

[About this Website](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy Statement](#)



## PRESS CONFERENCE - AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ACT

# TRANSCRIPT

27 Mar 2020

Prime Minister

E&OE



**PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you. Thank you for the way over the course of this week you have been responding to the very significant changes that we've been asking you to make to your lives and to your livelihoods. Over the course of the past week, people moving around places like Melbourne and Sydney have fallen by two-thirds. In the last two weeks, it's fallen by around 80 per cent. There has been a significant change in the way that people are taking on these messages and supporting each other all around the country. On behalf of all the Premiers and Chief Ministers and myself, the members of the National Cabinet, we simply want to say to you, Australia - thank you. Keep doing it. You're saving lives and you're saving livelihoods. This has been a significant shift. We need to see it keep taking place, all around the country. But you have encouraged us greatly. You have encouraged us by the way in which you have taken this on. We've called on you as Australians to combine together in this effort and your response over the past week has been simply magnificent. We always knew Australians are up to this test. And you're proving it, each and every day. Let's keep doing it, Australia. And we will continue to get through this together. Washing your hands, staying 1.5m away from each other, only going out when you have to, to do the necessities, and returning. And just doing simple things. This afternoon, people won't be going to the pub. But they will be at home, just with their family, on their own, and they will be FaceTiming and other things with their friends. They will have those conversations through that method. It's a big change to our way of life. But we're staying connected to each other. We might have to keep our distance, but it doesn't mean we have to disconnect from each other. This is also a very important message about supporting each other, supporting each other's mental health, and ensuring that no Australian, even though we have to be isolated, no Australian should have to go through this alone.

Last night, I joined the G20 leaders all around the world and I was very proud of my country. I was very proud of the response that I'm getting from the Australian people. I was very proud of the fact that together we have ensured that we have the highest testing rate, it would seem, in the world today. And the efforts that have been done by our health and medical professionals at the Commonwealth and state level to implement those arrangements. Whether it's been the travel bans, or the other restrictions we've put on Australian life, all of these things are making a difference. I can assure you I would rather be in Australia now with the way we are dealing with this together than in any other country in the world today. I was filled with great concern for in so many countries, what they are facing at the moment. But here in Australia it is a vital time. But we're getting on top of this and we can keep on top of this and we need to keep doing what we have been doing.

This weekend, the challenge will be there again. Let's keep doing the right thing. Let's keep saving lives. Let's keep saving livelihoods. And, you know, businesses are adapting as well. Distilleries are making hand sanitiser. Large companies, like Woolworths, are completely changing how they do things and employing more Australians. Cafes are changing how they do things. Businesses are being agile and they are adapting, even under significant strain and stress. But for many others, it has been devastating. There have been long queues, there have been frustrating delays as people are getting access to the strongest support from our safety net. You know, our social security system, our safety net in this country, our health system in this country is something I was reminded of again last night that we can be very proud of. In many countries where they are moving, they are simply getting their standard of social support to the same standard that Australians have in normal circumstances through our social security system. And so by extending the support of our social security system, by providing greater financial support and greater eligibility then we are able to help more people. So, in particular, the 10 percent of GDP measures that we already have in place more than matches up to those that are being done around the world. But I promise you - we will be doing more and I will say more about that shortly.

I want to assure you that we're in two fights. We are battling this thing on two fronts and they are both important. We're battling this virus with all the measures that we're putting in place and we're battling the economic crisis that has been caused as a result of the



coronavirus. Both will take lives. Both will take livelihoods. And it's incredibly important that we continue to focus on battling both of these enemies to Australia's way of life. I'm watching closely and am deeply concerned, as are all Premiers and Chief Ministers, by the devastating impacts on our economy and we will all be doing more to provide whatever support and assistance we can to help Australians and the businesses that employ them through this very, very difficult time. No decision that we're taking on the health front that has these terrible economic impacts is being taken lightly. Every day someone is in a job, for just another day, is worth fighting for. Where the health advice enables that, every day I can keep an Australian in work, every day I can get that little bit more of support by keeping those things running. The more we can do that, every day matters, because it matters to the person whose job it is, it matters to the business that has been built by someone over many years, it matters to their families, and that means it matters to me and it matters to all the Premiers and Chief Ministers. So, we will not take these decisions lightly. We will not take them for a matter of convenience because every decision we are taking we understand has very real personal impacts for individuals and for families, and individuals and for families, and the stresses that it can place upon them at the most difficult times.

Today, we have decided to take further actions targeting what is our greatest area of concern and Dr Murphy will speak more to that. What we're announcing today enables us to deal with the increasing pressure we have from Australians coming home. The reason we can focus on that is because of the great work Australians have done, particularly over the course of the past week, on getting on top of their own movements and their own behaviours. It means we can focus even more on these critical areas that are our greatest risk at this point in time. Two-thirds of the cases that we currently have are from an Australian who has come home: two-thirds. That is very different to what we're seeing in other parts of the world. Our biggest issue, the biggest number of cases, relate to this. And as time has gone on, the risk of those who are returning from other parts of the world actually increases because more countries have the virus. Where Australians have been, they have been there for longer and they have been more exposed. And so we are going to take further measures today to strengthen the enforcement of the self-isolation that is put in place for people returning through our airports in particular.

This is the isolation declaration card for coronavirus. Everyone who has been coming into Australia now for some time has had to fill this out. On this, they make a declaration. They say who they are, they say where they are going to self-isolate, they tell us what their phone number is, their passport numbers, and they sign up to self-isolation. This is enforceable by law. If you have come back into Australia, you need to live up to this pledge. And the state and territory governments are going to make sure you do. And there are strong penalties for those who don't comply with this and those states and territories are already moving in their enforcement measures.

But today we believe we need to go even further. In addition to the arrival declaration and the support of legislation that is put behind that. So, by no later than midnight tomorrow, that is 11:59pm Saturday states and territories will be quarantining all arrivals through our airports, in hotels and other accommodation facilities for the two weeks of their mandatory self-isolation before they are able to return to their home. If their home is in South Australia or in Perth or in Tasmania and they have arrived in Melbourne, they will be quarantining in Melbourne. If it's in Sydney, it will be in Sydney, if it's Brisbane, and so on. This same situation we put in place, particularly for the case that you will be aware of in Western Australia in relation to the Vasco da Gama and the returning vessel there in terms of these arrangements. And the Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan will be having more to say about that.

But each state will be doing the heavy lifting themselves to support their other states. And I thank them for the reciprocal nature in the way they are putting these arrangements in place. It is a great team to be part of with the Premiers and the Chief Ministers. They understand they need to share each other's burdens to ensure that we can manage this issue together as a nation. This will

be enforced by the state and territory governments. The Commonwealth will be supporting them with all manner of assistance, which will relate to the work done by the Border Force, logisticians, and other supports that will be necessary, but those arrangements will be run by the state and territory governments in each state.

We will be supporting them also by providing members of the Australian Defence Force to assist in the compliance with these arrangements. Now, I want to stress that members of the Australian Defence Force are not authorised as enforcement officers regarding prosecution in states and territories. That is the responsibility of law enforcement officers so sworn in those jurisdictions. The ADF will be there to support those enforcement authorities. And so we will be turning out the defence forces to support compliance with these new arrangements. It will require that cooperative and facilitative support and I have no doubt the defence forces will do that in the most sensitive way they can, but it is necessary.

The other thing we are doing is we will be supporting the states and territories in the important work they have of enforcing the existing isolation arrangements for people who are already here. The ADF will be supporting those states and territories with compliance checks to ensure that people are at their residences, that they have so sworn that they would be at. To ensure we get compliance with the self-isolation. Again, if there is a situation where people are non-compliant, of course the enforcement authority is the state jurisdiction and the relevant law enforcement agency in that state. But the ADF will be there to put boots on the ground, to support them in their enforcement efforts, and I thank the ADF for their great support in turning up to this task. We believe these important actions are the most important we can take right now because of what you've done, Australia. By you getting onboard with the changes that you have needed to make, this means we can target our efforts even more into these areas, where we believe the most critical concern is right now.

Now, also today on the economy, we were briefed by the Treasury Secretary, Dr Kennedy, and states and territories were given a very extensive understanding of the impacts that we're potentially dealing with. The Treasurer and I will have more to say about that in the next few days, as we are preparing to put in place the third tranche of the measures that will be there to support Australians further as we go through the many difficult months that are ahead. The thing about an economy is your society does depend on it and so do governments. You can't run a country without an economy. And we are doing everything we can to ensure we maintain as much of that economy as we can through this crisis, to support all of the essential services that are so necessary at a time like this.

Part of that plan that we will be announcing will be to seek to hibernate Australian businesses. This will be a very innovative approach in the circumstances we find ourselves in. We will have more to say about this, but I discussed it with the Premiers and Chief Ministers today. The idea is pretty simple, there are businesses which will have to close their doors. They will have to keep them closed either because we have made it necessary for them to do so, or simply there is just not the business to keep their doors open. We want those businesses to start again. And we do not want over the course of the next six months or as long as it takes, for those businesses to be so saddled by debt, so saddled by rental payments, so saddled by other liabilities that they will not be able to start again on the other side. We want these businesses to effectively go into a hibernation, which means on the other side, the employees come back, the opportunities come back, the economy comes back. This will underpin our strategy as we go to the third tranche of our economic plan, and that will include support by states and territories of managing the very difficult issue of commercial tenancies and also dealing ultimately with residential tenancies as well.

So, in conclusion, I thank you for your patience. But I thank you most of all for the great job you have done this week, Australia. We have got to keep doing it. We have got to keep sticking together. We have got to keep supporting each other. We've got to keep sharing the right information with each other. And we have got to stick together and support each other through what I know

is becoming day by day, a much tougher job for all of us. We can do it. I'm so encouraged by your reaction this week, as are all the Premiers and Chief Ministers. The next few weeks will be particularly vital and so we're getting this together at a time when it is most necessary and your response this week has been simply awesome.

Thank you. I'm going to pass you on to Dr Murphy.

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** Thanks, Prime Minister. So, we have just over 3,000 cases in Australia and we are worried. We are worried about the growth. But as the Prime Minister said we're in an almost unique situation in this country in that even now, a substantial part of our new cases are returned travellers. Our numbers have not been helped by a recent cruise ship, which has given lots of cases in Sydney. And we are still seeing significant numbers of returned travellers with the virus developing an infection and in many cases passing it on to their families. More than two-thirds are returned travellers, and a significant proportion of the other cases have been transmitted from returned travellers.

So, the Health Protection Principal Committee yesterday recommended to governments that the single most important thing we can do, is completely stop the capacity for any returning traveller transmitting the virus. Obviously we would look after them when they get the virus, as some will do, as they continue to come home. Coming from countries now that have very large outbreaks, so the risk is getting higher and higher, as the number of flights reduce, but the risk in those countries increase. This is a really important thing.

But we are also worried about community transmission. That is the single most important concern for the health experts. There is small amounts of community transmission in some pockets in Sydney, which is probably the most significant in the country, but tiny pockets in other states. We think that we are pretty confident with our testing regime, which is one of the highest rates of testing per population in the world, with one of the lowest positivity rates. But we're not kidding ourselves - if community transmission becomes significant, that is the real serious concern. That's why these social distancing measures are just so important. That's why they have to be for the long haul. For several months. So we have to have sustainable measures that every single citizen complies with every minute of the day, working from home where possible, going out only for the necessities, not mingling with your friends in a shopping centre or in a park. Practise social distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette. Every minute of the day. And as the Prime Minister said, we have seen dramatic improvements in the practises of everyday Australians. But we are watching really closely. And very, very - daily attention is being paid to, any growth in community transmission so that we can make any further recommendations to the government as necessary.

But at the moment, we are doing a very good job. But we have to have really good compliance with this social distancing to make it work. We can't have anyone breaking the rules, being stupid, being cavalier, and not taking this seriously. You have seen what's happened in countries over the world, where big community outbreaks have taken off. We are getting on top of our outbreaks, our state and territory public health officials are doing a fantastic job. But we have to very closely watch this community transmission. That's our biggest concern at the moment.

Thank you.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Thanks Brendan, Katherine?

**JOURNALIST:** Today, National Cabinet was I believe, was to discuss trigger points for moving to stage 3 lock downs or imposing the next phase of restrictions. Were any trigger points resolved or agreed upon, and also is it reasonable to interpret that from what you have just said about the proximity of the next tranche of measures that you want to sequence any further lockdowns with



the next phase of the hibernation package, for want of a better term, do you want to sequence those two things - so you go into lockdown once the hibernation package is in full view?

**PRIME MINISTER:** The National Cabinet, as I said, is very aware that the restrictions we've placed on people - families, households, businesses, everyone - have been very significant. We want to ensure that as far as practicable that we continue to pursue this both from the health point of view and ensuring we minimise the impact on people, particularly economically, and we do understand the need to try and keep these things as close together as we possibly can. But the great point about today was, is the progress that has been able to be made in the last week means that is giving us more time to consider these other critical issues. The states and territories do have different experiences with the outbreaks in their various locations and we will continue to work on what other possible restrictions might be necessary and we will continue to work on the circumstances in which they might be introduced. But what we are saying right now is the thing that we need to take action on right now, after the good response - great response - we've had from Australians to what we announced, particularly last Sunday. This gives us the opportunity to do that and to continue to work on the economic supports as well that will be there to help people should those other restrictions become necessary.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, in the announcement you have just made about the new quarantine measures for Australians returning home, can you give us a sense of the scale of what you're anticipating in terms of the number of people who will need to go through this new quarantine restriction?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, to give you an idea, yesterday there were 7,120 arrivals at our airports around the country. To give you an idea of what that was this same time last year, it was 48,725. That gives you an idea of what has happened over the course of these past few weeks and months. The number of arrivals now are at a level which the states and territories believe means they are able to practically implement these types of arrangements. And that coincides with the risk that is increasingly presented by arrivals at this stage, as the virus has spread more broadly around the world, that obviously has increased the risk to those who have been overseas for longer. For those who are seeking to make their way back, know these arrangements will be in place and they are mandatory. They should also know that it won't be before too long where it will be very difficult to get back to Australia. The coronavirus has not been a secret for the last several months and for those Australians who were able to get back over the last several months, they have been able to come back under much more convenient arrangements. Now, it is getting a lot tougher and it is getting a lot stricter and so I am sure Australians will consider that depending on where they are in the world today.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, how much do you expect that this is going to cost? Is the taxpayer going to have to foot that bill regarding these quarantine arrangements? And in terms of the concern regarding community transmission and not going unless absolutely necessary, can you say something about schools? Is anything going to change there given there is transmission going on in schools?

**PRIME MINISTER:** First of all, in terms of the cost, the cost of the accommodation and all those arrangements are being managed by states and territories. They are putting this in place. What we are doing is providing that support through all the other measures through the Australian Defence Force or the Australian Border Force and there are transport arrangements. But that is being worked on together right now between the Department of Home Affairs, the Australian Defence Force, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, directly with each of those state and territory jurisdictions to ensure they can get the measures in place. The greatest stress and strain will be in New South Wales because they have the highest number of arrivals of any of the states and territories. For some, for example, Tasmania, there are no international arrivals to Tasmania because they don't have an

international airport. So, it will be disproportionate on those states and territories. That is why I do thank them. Those states that get the biggest share of arrivals are really having to step up in the national interest and I think that is a tremendous effort. But equally in Western Australia, with that cruise ship, they are stepping up there too and I want to thank them for that. The arrangements, how that will apply to the individuals, they are being determined by the states and territories. The Commonwealth is not involved in that decision.

On the issue of education, I'm glad you asked me. We met again yesterday with the Australian Education Union. I will be issuing a statement on behalf of the National Cabinet that we agreed this morning. In each of the states and territories, they will be pursuing their own arrangements directly with those schools between now and the end of term. Term finishes at the end of next week for Queensland, at the end of the following week for other states and territories. We've had, I think, very constructive discussions with the union movement this week. But at the end of the day, it needs to be sorted out in each state and territory. Each state and territory will be doing that in response to the requests that have been made of them. We have a variance in attendance levels across the country. The Premier of New South Wales tells me that attendance in New South Wales is down below 20 per cent, but in South Australia it is many times higher, as it is in Tasmania. This will actually impact on how we're rolling out the influenza vaccinations as well. We have put arrangements in place for those states and territories - they will be sorting that out on the ground but some may have to work more through GPs and pharmacists, because the children won't be at school. In other places, like South Australia, they will be in a better position to do that. But the point is, as we have now entered into a transition phase with schools, where education needs to continue to be delivered, but over the next few weeks, the schools themselves will be preparing, together with - on a national basis, seeking to get some consistency on this - about when schools reopen on the other side of the school holidays. It won't look like it has looked up until now. But what is important is that vulnerable families, the parents who have jobs - as I have said to you, what's an essential job? A job that someone has. If they are in a position where they cannot provide the suitable arrangements for their children to learn at home, then I'm assured that no child will be turned away under those circumstances. So, I thank the unions for their support and the constructive way they are approaching it. But you will see some different arrangements between states and territories as we go into the term break.

**JOURNALIST:** PM, can you walk us through a bit more of the hibernation plan, is it your idea that a business that rolls down the shutter on its business at one point, six months later is allowed to reopen without \$1 more debt accruing? And who is going to have to take a hit? The banks think they might be able to capitalise on someone's mortgage. Are you hoping they won't do that? There are local councils, state governments.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Sure.

**JOURNALIST:** So can you walk us through how that will work?

**PRIME MINISTER:** We will make announcements on the details on this. I simply today wanted to set out what the objective was. There will be a burden for everyone to share. And that will include the business as well. There will be landlords who will suffer. There will be the banks who will be having to make arrangements with them. Whether councils are involved in providing waivers on rates and things of that nature, that will be something states work through. Whether land tax will be relieved for those who have tenants in a distressed situation, all of these things are what we are having to work through. It isn't a simple process. But the intent is, as far as possible, to achieve what you have said, Chris, and that is to ensure that a business that through no fault of its own, just like if there's any Australian who has lost a job through no fault of their own, we are simply trying to preserve and support them in the best way we possibly can for the simple reason that A; they are Australian, and that is what we should do, and B; that on the other side we want them to surge again. We want Australia to rise again on the other side of this and to go forward strongly. Sorry,

Sam?

**JOURNALIST:** Childcare is obviously very important to that. You have a situation at the moment where parents are paying for childcare where they are being urged not to attend or in some cases they have lost their job and they can no longer afford it. Centres want you to guarantee a slice of that \$9 billion in the childcare subsidy so they can not only pay their staff but allow these parents not to pay for care that they are not getting. What is going to happen with that? Because at the moment they are saying that centres are going to have to close.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, this is one of the very sensitive areas that we're working through, Sam. We're working on a plan to deal with that with those many premises around the country. They are an essential part of keeping the economy running for those who are still part of it and for those who are still going to work and we understand that. We are working through these issues, through a list of priorities, and that is one that is certainly very high to the top of the list, about how we're supporting people who remain in work to be able to stay in work and their child care support is a key part of that. But we haven't finalised those arrangements yet. In terms of the health issues around child-care centres, well, they are the same for schools. The health advice on those issues has not changed. And so we would continue to see child care, for particularly for those who are at work, especially I should say, exclusively I should say - for those who are at work as being a fundamental service that is required to help us get through. Jen?

**JOURNALIST:** We've heard clips from the Chinese President this morning saying that this is a global emergency and it's, we're all fighting a common enemy. Yes, that's true. But is that enough? Should China take more of a responsibility here? And were you given any assurances last night from the Chinese President?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, all leaders last night set out what they were doing to address the twin crises and this was acknowledged and the point that I made last night, was about the fact that we're confronting a twin crisis here. And that was accepted, and I think broadly understood and supported as we all put in place measures. We were talking about what we were doing to confront the virus and there is a massive commonality. Testing - so important. And the fact that Australia has, based on the data we have, one of if not the highest testing regime in the world, at some 700 per 100,000 - I mean, Korea comes closest to that, but as I said the other day, other places have testing regimes - and we are 25 times higher than that, and we're about 5 times higher than the UK on my last reading of the data. So, testing, contact tracing; incredibly important. And that's why we have surged in support from Defence Forces, as have the states in recruiting large numbers of people to do the contact tracing to get on top of this. Self-isolation and its enforcement, which is what we have been talking about today. We're all very committed around the world to putting in whatever resources we need to do to get the antivirals in place and to find the vaccine. All of one mind on all those issues. Other matters around border arrangements, keeping the supply lines open for essential medical supplies. That's very important. And there was broad commitment to those sorts of things. On the economy side, we discussed all the various stimulus and support and social security mechanisms we are putting in place, and, as I said, Australia on all of those marks, I think fares very, very, very well.

In terms of where it started and how it started - not a time for that. It's a time for saving lives. It's a time for saving livelihoods. And that is what everyone has a common purpose to do. The last point that was also discussed - and I noted particularly in relationship to our Pacific family - is we're a developed economy. We have one of the best health systems in the world and we come into this with a very strong balance sheet and a strong economy. But there are many countries around the world, for whom that is not true. And we should brace ourselves, I think, for some very devastating images around the world and we are all going to have to do our part as a global community to support those who are not in as strong a position as the G20 nations. And here, that means our Pacific family. I noted that we would be taking particular responsibility, with our cousins across the ditch in New Zealand, to ensure

that we do everything we can to support our Pacific family. Tom?

**JOURNALIST:** Two questions. First of all, will the government consider at any stage repatriating the 10 or 20,000 Australians still stranded overseas? And, secondly, have you had a conversation with Gladys Berejiklian about the Ruby Princess situation? Can we expect any kind of an investigation into that?

**PRIME MINISTER:** We've had a number of conversations about that. We are learning the lessons from that episode. And a lot of what you have seen here today is as a result of that. So, we will continue to do that. I mean Gladys and I and the Premiers - we are talking all the time, every day. We are working closely together to ensure that we can stay on top of this for the interests of saving lives and saving livelihoods. That is the only agenda, that is the only issue, that is the only focus that we have. In relation to those Australians who are overseas, yes, we have got an arrangement currently in place for those who are stranded in South America, in Peru. And we've also had an arrangement where we have already just brought back a group from the United States and Hawaii. And they have come back. And they are currently in the Swiss Hotel. There will be some Australians who are in places where they have found themselves through no fault of their own, isolated, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is working on all of those cases. But for those Australians who have had an opportunity and - even more amazingly, those who continued to leave the country, even after a 'do not travel' advice was given, then I don't think they could expect their fellow Australians to think that the Australian Government would be having them high on the list of the people we need to go and support. But it is the job of the government. Australian citizens, wherever they are through our consular services, get that support. We will be doing our best to support them in whichever way we can.

Now, are we going to go to Tom, and then we'll go right over the back there. I will try and make sure everyone gets a go.

**JOURNALIST:** You have spoken before about making sure people get the right information, not - you know, information that is incorrect on social media. Given that, and a lot of older Australians get traditional newspapers and are at risk, would newsagents be considered an essential service through whatever stages of lockdown we're going to talk about?

**PRIME MINISTER:** First of all, no Premier or Chief Minister is speaking about the term that you have. Shopping centres, well more specifically I should say supermarkets, food, all the things that Australians are going to need - well, they are going to continue to be able to access those in the normal way. So, I would caution against the way people talk about this word "lockdown", and the reason I'd say it is this. And I know it's, you meant it innocently. I don't want to give people - and none of the Premiers do - that that is going to be someplace we might get to, where people can't go out and get essential supplies, that they can't get the things that they need to actually live life for the next 6 months. So, when we talk about potential other restrictions, there is no need for people to rush out and cram supermarkets and do things like that, because of other restrictions that may become necessary. So, I would actually caution the media against using the word "lockdown", because I think it does create unnecessary anxiety because that is not an arrangement that is actually being considered in the way that term might suggest.

But in terms of news information, well, what we have been doing is identifying activities that are undertaken at premises that we would be restricting. And so we have been nominating things that should cease. We haven't been going down the path of saying, "Well, this is all in. And everything else is out." It is actually focused on the things that we would restrict. Now, the reason we're doing that is because that's much easier to understand. Even barre classes, the other night, I now know what they are, by the way you will be pleased to know! All the memes that people have put together - it's barre is it? I will get the pronunciation, thank you, Sam Maiden!

**JOURNALIST:** [Inaudible]

**PRIME MINISTER:** That's one press conference I will remember, Sam! But barre, or whatever it is, by being specific about what is being restricted, that is a much more helpful way because then people know and they don't have to ask questions, "Well, is this in? Is that in? Is this in?" We are trying to be as clear as we can about what is being restricted. And we are looking to keep, as I said before, every service open that we possibly can. And they of course are important services, Tom. They are important services.

Now I promised I think to go over the back, right up, yep?

**JOURNALIST:** You thanked Australians for their cooperation with this and you've cited the progress of the last week, you obviously don't want to use the term lockdown, but New South Wales and Victoria are suggesting stricter measures, are you confident with the trajectory that we are seeing now in terms of people adhering to these measures, that that is enough to ensure that we won't have to enforce stricter measures?

**PRIME MINISTER:** No I don't think we can say that absolutely. I think where further restrictions are necessary, further restrictions will be applied. That is the approach we are taking. Today as we have met, we believe what we are doing today to target in on this most particular area of risk is what is necessary for today, but what I would flag is going forward, is that states and territories are getting in different phases of where the virus is at, and that you may see in the future, greater variation in how far restrictions go in some parts of the country, versus others, and I would encourage those where greater restrictions are not imposed, that is not in any way a suggestion that those jurisdictions are taking this any less seriously, it is just saying that where they are at, the restrictions are relevant for where they are, and other jurisdictions may be in a different situation. And so we are looking to build in that flexibility going forward because as Doctor Murphy keeps saying, you start this with this restriction, and then you have got to be able to do it for 6 months, and even, frankly, if we were to go to further restrictions, and say that they might be done for two or four weeks and reviewed after that time, you had better be ready to do it for 6 months, because at what point do you pull it back? And I think with what we're learning about the virus, that would present very challenging. Let's hope that that would not be required, but the reality is I think if we are being really brutally honest, is that once these restrictions come into place, they stay in place, and they will be in place for some time, and we will all have to keep adapting, and as I said this week, the way people adapted gives me great encouragement. John?

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, you mentioned as part of this business hibernation that both banks and also things like energy companies and landlords will have to spread and share some of the pain, what about employee benefits such as accumulated leave, long service leave, that might have accrued over many years, to perhaps get a business back on its feet, not to have its debts on those balance sheets? Could they be on the table as part of the discussion?

**PRIME MINISTER:** What the Treasurer and I are seeking to do is keep people connected to their business through this time and what we are seeking to do is ensure that in these businesses, everybody is part of it, everybody is a team member in this, it is and everybody's interest that that business resuscitates and rises again on the other side. That means your job is there again, your income is there again, life can return to some form of normality on the other side. So what I am saying is, we are all in it together. We are all in it, whether you are the landlord, whether you're the lessee, the employee, whether you are the bank, you are all in it. The energy companies, they have already moved, I think, I know they have, Angus Taylor has told me, they're looking to provide more support, whether you're the local government, all of these things. I mean, it's time for Australians in these commercial arrangements to sort of get it, that they have to sit down and come to an arrangement with one another. I mean, for example, if a tenant, a shop in a local high street somewhere in the country cannot keep their shop open and they have to put the lock on the door, they can't pay the rent, if the landlord wanted to enforce that on them and kick them out and rip their fitout out and do all that

sort of thing, who do they think is going to move into the shop and pay the rent? I mean, what is sensible here is to understand the economic environment we are in and to see that on the other side, it is in everybody's interest that everybody gets through. So that is what working together, I think, in our economy really means. So we want landlords to talk to their tenants, we want employees to talk to their employers, we want banks to talk to their customers and vice-versa, and we want them to sort out arrangements that help them or get through.

**JOURNALIST:** On the issue of residential rents, was there any conversation or was there any appetite to nationalise some of those restrictions or rules given that some states have already come out in front and given amnesties to some of the renters that we see? Was there any mood to make those rules nationalised?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, they can't be nationalised under a federal jurisdiction, these things will always remain the province of the states under the Constitution, but there is a lot of work being done together to try and get a consistent approach when it comes to residential tenancies. Residential tenancies are a bit different to commercial tenancies, there are different landlords, there are different issues in place. We are looking, the Commonwealth provides rental assistance and more and more people are coming onto rental assistance, for the simple fact that they have lost employment, they are coming onto the jobseeker payment which gives them entitlement to rental assistance, and so there will be a lot of supports that come into that. But it is an issue that is a high priority, just like childcare and they're complicated issues in many respects and we have to work through them to get the right answers, but it is high up on the list of. The Treasurers of all the states and territories, working under our Treasurer leading the process, is looking at exactly what you are talking about right now. Yep? I can do one more over here.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, the AMA today has raised concerns about protecting Australia's supply of PPE and other medical equipment, and with these reports that they are being exported or taken out of the country. Are you aware of this being an ongoing issue and you flagged it earlier in the week that there might be measures being put in place? How far away are those and, if I may, Professor Murphy, in April when all of the elective surgery nurses in private hospitals are no longer going to be doing that role, is there capacity to shift them potentially into ICU, or what is potentially happening with that workforce?

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** We have advanced plans with the states and territories, working with the private hospitals to absolutely keep those incredibly valuable clinicians. 35 percent of our intensive care is in our private hospital sector. They provide huge capacity, so they will have a key role in our outbreak, and we understand there are financial issues with elective surgery being reduced because of the PPE issue but we are absolutely omitted, state and territory and Commonwealth government, to make sure that we keep the private hospital sector viable to help in this response and to be there at the other end.

**PRIME MINISTER:** On the other issue, those regulations are coming into place literally as we speak. My hope is that will ensure through the ABF and all those authorities that they're able to crack down on this. It is very disappointing, to say the least, and there will be some people who just don't get it and do these sorts of things, and we have toughened up the laws to make sure that they will get it.

**JOURNALIST:** On intensive care, where are we up to with increasing capacity? The Journal of Australia says we may be 10 days away from hitting capacity around the country?

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** I think that prediction is not necessarily shared but we obviously have done very advanced work in increasing our intensive care capacity. So we have strategies to at least triple our intensive care capacity and even go further if we need to. We are working very closely with the Australian and New Zealand



Intensive Care Society, they are preparing a national heat map of where the beds are, where the usage of those beds are, and we are working very hard to increase our supply of ventilators and consumables. We are, compared to many countries, our baseline ICU capacity is very good, much better per head of population and many other high income countries, but we have a very, very committed and enthusiastic intensive care community who are planning on very significant surges which we hope will not have to happen.

**JOURNALIST:** Many have suggested that more comprehensive restrictions would result in a shorter disruption and fewer deaths. Now, we know you don't agree with that, but are you willing to release the modelling that explains what the government, what the government thinks would happen under each scenario?

**PRIME MINISTER:** The decisions that I communicate from this podium are the decisions of all Premiers, Chief Ministers, and myself. This is not some personal view of mine, these are the decisions of the National Cabinet based on the medical expert advice that we receive in terms of the restrictions that are necessary to deal with the management of the outbreak of the virus in Australia. I sometimes note that those who often are pushing for greater restrictions, they will keep their job. I am not going to be so cavalier about it. I am going to make sure I fight for every job I can because I know that that job means something very important to that person, and that family. And I would not compromise that principle, save only that there would be a compelling health reason to do so.

So, Australia, thank you again. Thank you for what you have done. We will continue to do everything within our power to support you. This weekend, I hope you have a good one, it is going to be quite different to the ones you have had in the past, I know, but I also know that you will support one another and you will continue doing the things that you have been doing this week to save lives and to save livelihoods. Thank you.



PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

[Home](#) > [Enforced Quarantine For Returned Travellers To Combat Coronavirus](#)

# Enforced Quarantine For Returned Travellers To Combat Coronavirus

27 March 2020

Following agreement by the National Cabinet, all travellers returning from overseas to Victoria will be placed in enforced quarantine for a self-isolation period of 14-days to slow the spread of coronavirus.

While Victoria has seen some community transmission of this virus, most cases have been the result of travellers returning from overseas who then pass it onto their close contacts.

To ensure this no longer happens, National Cabinet has agreed that all states and territories will place enforced quarantine measures.

This will see returned travellers housed in hotels, motels, caravan parks, and student accommodation during their 14-day self-isolation period.

These measures will not only help slow the spread of coronavirus, they will also support hospitals and health workers who are facing significant challenges during this time.

The new measures will be operational from 11.59pm on Saturday 28 March, with the Victorian Government already securing 5000 hotel rooms.

We will try to accommodate returned travellers close to their homes, but in some instances that may not be possible. Each person will also receive self-isolation care packages of food and other essentials.

The costs of accommodation, public health and security will be covered by each individual jurisdiction. There will be reciprocal arrangements in place to house the residents of other states and territories.

It has also been agreed that the Australian Defence Force will be engaged to support the implementation of these arrangements.

The Victorian Government is working closely with the Australian Hotels Association and other organisations so all returned travellers can be housed safely and securely.

As we take this extra step to slow the spread of coronavirus, our message to every other Victorian remains the same: Stay at home, protect our health system, save lives.



**If you can stay home, you must stay home.**

**If you don't, people will die.**

Download the Media Release

PDF | 134.79 KB

Was this page helpful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[The team](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Copyright](#)

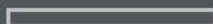
[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Media centre](#)

[Contact us](#)



The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country through and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.

Search Defence

Search

DEFENCE

MINISTERS

NAVY

ARMY

AIR FORCE



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Department of Defence Ministers

[Home](#)
[Releases ▼](#)
[Previous Ministers](#)

[Home](#) / [Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC](#) / [Media releases](#)  
/ [Defence support to mandatory quarantine measures commences](#)

# Defence support to mandatory quarantine measures commences

29 March 2020

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has deployed teams across the country to work in partnership with state and territory law enforcement agencies to conduct COVID-19 quarantine compliance checks.

The ADF will provide logistics support for the state and territory police as they enforce mandatory quarantine and isolation measures.

In New South Wales, more than 30 ADF personnel have deployed to Sydney Airport to support state police, with at least another 40 supporting the quarantine of six separate hotels.

In Queensland, around a dozen ADF personnel deployed to Brisbane Airport and Cairns Airport to support state police. Another dozen personnel are supporting the quarantine of a hotel in Cairns.

50 ADF personnel have been approved to deploy in Western Australia to support quarantine measures for new arrivals. A small number have already supported the movement of baggage from Fremantle to Perth Airport and Rottnest Island Ferry Terminal.

The ADF is working with other state and territory authorities to determine their support requirements and stand ready to provide that support at short notice.

The ADF response is being undertaken through the provisions of the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) framework. ADF



**Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC**  
Minister for Defence

## Media contacts

Nicky Hamer (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 437 989 927 [📞](#)

Ben Martin (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 447 219 902 [📞](#)

members have no coercive enforcement powers.

As of today, around 350 ADF personnel are supporting state and territory authorities.

Assistance from the ADF is coordinated through the Emergency Management Australia-led Whole-of-Government response to COVID-19.

Information about Defence assistance to the states and territories, as well as the Whole-of-Government response, is updated on the Defence website when details are finalised:

<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/defence-response-covid-19>

Defence Media:  
[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

[Biography](#) | [Media releases](#) |  
[Speeches](#) | [Statements](#) |  
[Transcripts](#)

## More releases

ADF exercises capability at RIMPAC

18 August 2020

Boosting Australia's naval shipbuilding capacity through new Naval Architecture program

18 August 2020

Australia delivers humanitarian supplies to Beirut

15 August 2020

Creating opportunities for Australian industry in the Hunter Class Frigate Program

13 August 2020

Australian company awarded support contract for Navy's new combat helicopters

12 August 2020

Defending Australia and its National Interests



[Contact us](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Error/bug](#)



Search Defence

Search

DEFENCE

MINISTERS

NAVY

ARMY

AIR FORCE



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Department of Defence Ministers

[Home](#)

[Releases](#) ▾

[Previous Ministers](#)

[Home](#) / [Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC](#) / [Media releases](#)  
/ [Expansion of ADF support to COVID-19 Assist](#)

# Expansion of ADF support to COVID-19 Assist

1 April 2020

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is expanding its support to the national COVID-19 pandemic response with the establishment of Operation COVID-19 ASSIST.

Led by Major General Paul Kenny, DSC, DSM, its role is to coordinate and deliver the military aspects of ADF's support to civilian agencies.

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said the operation comprises seven state-and-territory-based task groups.

"The ADF is contributing to a national response to protect Australians and support state and territory capacity in a time of crisis," Minister Reynolds said.

"Under Operation COVID-19 ASSIST, Defence will provide customised support to state and territory authorities, to reinforce and expand their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic."

On 9 March 2020, Defence established a COVID-19 taskforce led by Lieutenant General John Frewen, DSC, AM to coordinate Defence's internal response to COVID-19 and support to the whole-of-government effort to address the impacts of COVID-19.

Assistance from the ADF is being co-ordinated through the Emergency Management Australia-led whole-of-government response to COVID-



**Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC**  
Minister for Defence

## Media contacts

Nicky Hamer (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 437 989 927 [📞](#)

Ben Martin (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 447 219 902 [📞](#)

Defence Media:

[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

[Biography](#) | [Media releases](#) |  
[Speeches](#) | [Statements](#) |  
[Transcripts](#)

## More releases

Revolutionising future mine countermeasure technology  
 25 August 2020

ADF exercises capability at RIMPAC  
 18 August 2020

Boosting Australia's naval shipbuilding capacity through new Naval Architecture program  
 18 August 2020

Australia delivers humanitarian supplies to Beirut  
 15 August 2020

Creating opportunities for Australian industry in the Hunter Class Frigate Program  
 13 August 2020

19.

"There are already around 570 ADF members providing support including contact tracing, planning assistance, and assisting police with mandatory quarantine arrangements for international air arrivals," Minister Reynolds said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic requires a proactive national response and Defence is well postured to provide scalable support to states and territories, as needed, for the duration of this effort."

Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC said Defence capability and capacity is ready, willing and able to assist where required.



"There is no higher priority for the ADF at this time. We are here for the people of Australia," General Campbell said.

Major General Kenny previously served as Director General of Special Operations and Counter Terrorism Operations.

Information about Defence assistance to the states and territories as well as the Whole of Government response is available at:  
<https://news.defence.gov.au/national/daily-update-defence-response-covid-19>

Imagery will be available at:  
<http://images.defence.gov.au/S20201233>

Video footage will be available at:  
[https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/mediahub/Ekg0EjNL5b1Epe3igKLDB04B8rkiTtUjFeh2ijaR1i1\\_HQ?e=Ne9f3b](https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/mediahub/Ekg0EjNL5b1Epe3igKLDB04B8rkiTtUjFeh2ijaR1i1_HQ?e=Ne9f3b).

Nicky Hamer (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 437 989 927   
 Kenny Ang (Minister Reynolds' Office): +61 437 111 470   
 Defence Media (02) 6127 1999, [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

Defending Australia and its National Interests



[Contact us](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Error/bug](#)



**Gaetjens, Phil**

---

**From:** Chris Eccles (DPC) <chris.eccles@dpc.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 April 2020 4:02 PM  
**To:** Gaetjens, Phil  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: RE: Assistance re hotel stay security [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Phil

**Chris Eccles AO**  
Secretary  
Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria

Ph: 03 9651 5072

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Gaetjens, Phil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 April 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** Chris Eccles (DPC)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Assistance re hotel stay security [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Chris

On the question of assistance with security, I am advised the only deal with NSW was in-kind provision of ADF personnel.

I am sure the Commonwealth would be willing to assist Victoria in a similar way if you wanted to reconsider your operating model.

**Philip Gaetjens**  
Secretary  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
p. (02) 6271 5200  
e. [phil.gaetjens@pmc.gov.au](mailto:phil.gaetjens@pmc.gov.au) w. [www.pmc.gov.au](http://www.pmc.gov.au)  
One National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600 PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Executive Assistant – [REDACTED]  
p. [REDACTED] m. [REDACTED]  
e. [REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au



The Department acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to their Cultures, Country and Elders both past and present.



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
**JTG629.2**

**SITREP**

**JTG629.2 – DAILY SITREP TO JTF629 – COVID-19**

**SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 27 1400L MAR 20 TO 28 1400L MAR 20**

**COMD COMMENTS**

1. Following the PM's announcement on ADF involvement in Quarantine Compliance, and the subsequent strategic direction, JTG 629.2 has continued to engagement with key leaders at both Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and Victoria Police (VICPOL). VICPOL is well advanced in the planning and preparation to execute the National direction on Quarantine Compliance with the VICPOL State Operational Plan, which is expected to be approved by the VICPOL Commissioner over the weekend. This plan does not presently include, or require, ADF FE involvement. Once the VICPOL State Operational Plan has been approved by the VICPOL Commissioner, it has been agreed to then review how ADF could integrate and support. Generally, ADF support will be viewed by VICPOL as a "back-of-house" function and, at this stage of planning and response, does not include direct involvement from ADF with the public. I have appointed COL [REDACTED] to provide direct Liaison on my behalf with VICPOL planning staff. Additionally my team at SCC/EMV will remain closely engaged in the planning, as well as nested to the JOSS-V efforts. I expect to have a better understanding of our support role and associated concepts in Quarantine Compliance late Sun-Mon.

2. Assuming we are able to source appropriate quantities of PPE, I am confident that TG 629.2 standing ESF (05 HQ, GD Coy, Log Element and spt by JTG BSG) is ready for tasking through this week, as required. I view this as a covering force that is able to respond to immediate tasking (as required), and allow time to prepare a second ESF (-) within JTG 629.2 over the coming week. We are developing a disaggregated approach to mounting and battle procedure, with this work largely occurring over virtual means. Any physical mounting and preparation would be conducted in small teams IOT provide a level of force protection from COVID19 environment. This will also allow the JTG HQ to continue to generate IOC.

3. HQ JTG 629.2 generation into a Joint HQ continues. The HQ is engaging regional callsigns to assist with initial staffing needs, and will advise of reinforcement requirements early next week. This is initially focussed on J1, J2 and J3 staff, and Force Engr advisors and planners. We are also scoping residual health personnel that may be available to provide support to initial tasks and force protection planning and measures.

**INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD**

4. Incidents: Nil

**FRIENDLY SITUATION**

5. **SCC/EMV.** EMV remains at Tier 2 with DHHS appointed the Control Agency for the COVID-19 State Emergency Management. Stage 2 restrictions remain in place escalation

to stage 3 subject to State government. Full and updated details are available at the DHHS Victoria website [here](#).

### DACC TASKS/OPERATIONS LAST 24 HOURS

TOTAL TASKS	TASKS ONGOING	TASKS COMPLETE	TASKS SCOPING	TASKS CANCELLED
2	2	0	0	0

1. **General Summary:** Early scoping is occurring for the possible use by the Victorian government of Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for use as a temporary hospital (for stage three response). Although a contracted solution would be sought to modify this building, it is possible a request for ADF assistance may be sought. Further scoping and recon will continue.
2. In addition, work with JOSS-V in scoping potential support for the management of large numbers of deceased persons (1000) is continuing. Possible requests for ADF assistance may include suitable areas to hold refrigerated containers and generators. Although, early discussions highlight the use of Port of Melbourne facilities as suitable. This would utilise available power supplies, secure areas in the wharf area and ensure separation from the community. Meeting with key stakeholders is scheduled for 30 Mar. Updates will be provided as available.
3. EMV/SCC are also in very early scoping of potential use of ADF in support of LOGPAKs for future state response.
4. Current COVID19 statistics are:
  - a. 658 total Cases in VIC (as at 0900L 28 Mar) Increase of 111 in last 24 h.
  - b. Three (3) deaths.
5. **Deployed FE Summary (detail key FE as required) - Reorganised:**
  - a. **EMV/SCC LO Team:** COL [REDACTED] and MAJ [REDACTED] (TDY JOSS-V) role N/C.
  - b. **SPOC LO Team:** COL [REDACTED] and LTCOL [REDACTED] (informal - yet to be mounted). Both personnel are also senior [REDACTED] members
  - c. **SCC Planning Assistance Team:** Continue to support ops/log and strategic planning.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team (Triage and Notification):** Eight members working with DHHS. Assisting with the transcribing of arrival entry data cards onto a digital system to better manage information.

### DACC TASK/OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

6. **Deployed FE Summary (detail key FE as required):**
  - a. **EMV/SCC LO Team:** N/C – Remote/WFH.
  - b. **SPOC LO Team:** Scope VICPOL Quarantine Compliance Plan.



- c. **SCC Planning Assistance Team:** N/C to current support.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team (Triage and Notification):** Duties IAW roster requirements. Tasks N/C.

### CAPABILITY ISSUES

7. This HQ has submitted a request for the provision of UTC infrastructure for HQ 4 Bde to G6, 2 DIV (ICT Manager, HQ FORCOMD) Mr [REDACTED] as well as logging a job. The Job has been downgraded from operationally urgent to LOW priority. The acquisition of this infrastructure is vital to enable integration with Victorian State and other agencies due to the social distance challenges and limitations now posed at the SCC, EMV and 4 Bde Business Continuity Plan (BCP).

8. 4 CSSB are continuing to review stockholdings and supply options of PPE to ensure 4 Bde is able to equip any potential deployment of ESF elements

9. JTG629.2 is actively engaging regional ADF call signs to generate IOC for JTG.

### PERSONNEL ISSUES

#### Personnel

ARA	ARES	APS	HQ JTG Total	LO Team	Planning Team	Contact Tracing Team	Other FE	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
12	4	5	21	2	5	10	1 (MEDCON)	39

As at: 27 1600L Mar 20

#### Personnel Incident Reporting

10. Nil

#### WHS Reporting/Safety

11. Nil

### LOGISITIC ISSUES

12. Nil

#### RFIs

RFI Number	RFI Raised By	Detail of RFI	Action By	Response NLT
001	JTG629.2	Request DIRLAUTH with all Vic based Defence organisations.	G3	Complete

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

13. Nil response or engagement with media has occurred, nor is intended at this point.

**Drafted By:** S33 4 BDE, CAPT [REDACTED]

**Released By:** COS 4 BDE, LTCOL [REDACTED]



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
JTG629.2

**SITREP**

**JTG629.2 – DAILY SITREP TO JTF629 – COVID-19**

**SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 27 1400L MAR 20 TO 28 1400L MAR 20**

Please note original document  
incorrectly dated - correct  
period is 28 1400L MAR 20  
TO 29 1400L MAR 20

**COMD COMMENTS**

1. HQ JTG 629.2 LO teams are working closely with both SCC/EMV and VICPOL on extant Quarantine Compliance operations and planning. Generally, across all agencies there is confidence in the current compliance situation in VIC. VICPOL senior leadership have confirmed the situation at Melb Airport is calm and ongoing compliance of returned travellers is good. At this point contracted security is supporting designated accommodation facilities. Additionally, DHHS have reported that the electronic messaging and reporting system of all travellers from 8 Mar onwards who are undergoing quarantine and isolation is working well, with positive compliance. Nonetheless, we are reviewing our ESF's preparations and NTM to ensure we can respond to tasking as determined, requested and approved through extant DACC procedures, from this evening onwards. Further, our LO teams continue to work with EMV to explore potential support to Quarantine Compliance.
2. Specifically, at this time senior VICPOL leadership have confirmed that they do not require assistance with quarantine compliance through spotchecks and monitoring of gatherings.
3. I have directed the DCOMD (COL [REDACTED]) to establish a small 4Bde Rear Cell with JTG629 to manage those Bde issues not directly linked to COVID-19 operations. I see this cell being integrated within the HQ IOT ensure synchronisation and coordination.
4. Yesterday, I conducted a Brigade Command Recall with all COs, RSMs and PSOs. The virtual recall was a valuable opportunity for the Bde's key appointments to embrace this technology moving forward. I outlined my Command philosophy and the direction I see the Brigade moving toward during my tenure, and importantly discuss the pressing issues and concepts WRT to OP C19A.
5. The management and supply of PPE to our FE so that they can be commensurate in force protection measures with supported EM agency will be critical to future operations. My logistic staff are confirming extant holdings and will initially report requirements to ensure our standing ESF is enabled for immediate tasking.

**INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD**

6. Incidents: Nil

**FRIENDLY SITUATION**

7. **SCC/EMV.** EMV remains at Tier 2 with DHHS appointed the Control Agency for the COVID-19 State Emergency Management. Stage 2 restrictions remain in place. Escalation to stage 3 subject to decision of State government. Full and updated details are available at the DHHS Victoria website [here](#).

#### DACC TASKS/OPERATIONS LAST 24 HOURS

TOTAL TASKS	TASKS ONGOING	TASKS COMPLETE	TASKS SCOPING	TASKS CANCELLED
2	2	0	3	0

8. **General Summary:** Scoping 3 potential support tasks (as reported in yesterday's SITREP) continue.

9. The JLC LO in the Combined Area Operations Group provided advice and support to design and set up a delivery and ordering database for PPE to Quarantine Enforcement activities. Additionally the LOG LO completed process flow chart for Red Cross / Australia Post contracted solution for food package delivery.

10. MSC has verbally approved the following additional State Control Centre positions. These are to be included on the JTG629.2 OMD. JTG629.2 will commence identification of appropriate pers to fill and on board through RSO&I:

- a. J1 Advisor to SCC Workforce Planning/Coordination Cell) – Target RAAF PCO O3/O4 with Army CCLK as potential reinforcement as Assistant Advisor).
- b. INT OPS SNCO as Assistant J2 Advisor to SCC STRAT INT UNIT.
- c. 6-man INT Fusion Centre/All Sources Cell (Remote Workforce from Home location), based around current 138 SIG SQN S2 Cell (re-roled).
- d. Assistant J5 Planning Advisor for SCC Strategic Planning – specifically with Crisis Action Planning skillset. Target Joint Ops Plans experienced O3.
- e. J09 Advisor to SCC Strat Comms – INFO OPS/IDI Qualified O4/O3.
- f. 4-pers Support Team for Social Media Ops to SCC Strat Comms – Assessed as NCO SPVR w/ 3 Operators.
- g. On-call / Remote Technical Advisory Group drawn from SME skillsets within ADF-VIC to be assigned General Support to JTG.
- h. The ability to short-notice generate a Planning Assessments/Review Cell (On-call / remote workforce) to review EMV Strat/Op-level Plans for viability, Synchronisation & Orchestration and offer recommendations. Tgt Unit HQ JTG within capacity to provide this effect O/O.

11. Current COVID19 statistics are:

- a. 769 total Cases in VIC as at 0900L 29 Mar (+84 new cases in last 24hrs).
- b. Four (4) deaths.



- c. SCC will not release any future case projections due to reliability.
- 12. **Deployed FE Summary (detail key FE as required) - Reorganised:**
  - a. *EMV/SCC LO Team:* N/C
  - b. *SPOC LO Team:* Scope VICPOL Quarantine Compliance Plan.
  - c. *SCC Planning Assistance Team:* N/C to current support.
  - d.
  - e. *Contact Tracing Team (Triage and Notification):* Duties IAW roster requirements. Tasks N/C.

#### DACC TASK/OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

- 13. **Deployed FE Summary (detail key FE as required):**
  - a. *EMV/SCC LO Team:* N/C
  - b. *SPOC LO Team:* Scope VICPOL Quarantine Compliance Plan.
  - c. *SCC Planning Assistance Team:* N/C to current support.
  - d. *Contact Tracing Team (Triage and Notification):* Duties IAW roster requirements. Tasks N/C. Electronic communications are being employed to great success with a high degree of confidence in compliance. 40 civilian nurses will commence duty from Monday as part of the ongoing enhancement with the DHHS Contact Tracing.

#### CAPABILITY ISSUES

- 14. N/C to ICT request. Awaiting response from contract provider.
- 15. 4 CSSB are continuing to review stockholdings and supply options of PPE to ensure 4 Bde is able to equip any potential deployment of ESF elements
- 16. JTG629.2 is actively engaging regional ADF call signs to generate IOC for JTG.

#### PERSONNEL ISSUES

##### Personnel

ARA	ARES	APS	HQ JTG Total	LO Team	Planning Team	Contact Tracing Team	Other FE	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
12	4	5	21	2	5	10	1 (MEDCON)	39

As at: 28 1600L Mar 20

##### Personnel Incident Reporting

- 17. Nil

**WHS Reporting/Safety**

18. Nil

**LOGISITIC ISSUES**

19. Nil

**RFIs**

<b>RFI Number</b>	<b>RFI Raised By</b>	<b>Detail of RFI</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Response NLT</b>

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

20. Nil response or engagement with media has occurred, nor is intended at this point.

**Drafted By:** J3 4 BDE, MAJ [REDACTED]

**Released By:** COS 4 BDE, LTCOL [REDACTED]





have gone into either self-imposed or directed isolation, which is estimated to number approx. 30,000 citizens.

#### **COMD JTG629.2 (VIC) COMMENTS**

7. In consultation with Emergency Management VIC (EMV) and JOSS-V, our LO Team is working through the State Police Operations Cell (SPOC) to finalise DACC6 support requirements. Meeting with VICPOL DCOM advised support requirements to be confirmed within the next 48 hours. We anticipate initial support may involve the relief of VICPOL staff undertaking remote quarantine compliance checks. Additionally, VICPOL planners are developing potential trigger points that would activate requests for ADF support, specifically for short-notice tasks. These outcomes will continue to inform how we prepare and posture our ESF elements.

8. EMV OP SOTERIA (returning passenger enforced quarantine) is progressing well with no requirement for ADF 'boots on ground' support.

9. Engagement with CO MUR (8 BDE) has been conducted with respect to developing Mission Specific Training and RSO&I. Current planning by the J7 cell of this HQ continues towards delivery of training requirements. On activation, the intent thereafter would be for MUR to deliver this package by remote means as much as possible with essential physical locality training reduced as far as practical.

10. The activation of a PL elm of the ESF over the last 24 h has provided additional flexibility and reactivity to short notice tasks that may eventuate. This also allows for proof of dispersed mounting CONOPS and will inform future op timelines.

#### **COMD JTG629.3 (QLD) COMMENTS**

11. JTG Company TU continues to operate in support of Queensland Police (QPOL) task of escorting air arrivals from the Cairns and Brisbane International Airports. It is expected that Cairns International Airport will continue to operate for the next two weeks and the Brisbane International Airport may cease operations later this week. CONOP for protection of remote indigenous communities for the Mt Isa and Cairns DDMG's well advanced, subject to approval of task. It is expected that task will extend to indigenous communities across the QLD AOR in the coming week. Further request for additional support to contract tracing task likely next 24hrs to increase to two teams, we have sufficient trained personnel to meet this task. Support to compliance checking has not been requested through the SDCC at this stage but are prepared to provide as required. OSD being developed to provide robust 24/7 operations in a COVID environment.

#### **COMD JTG629.4 (SA) AND JTF629.5 (TAS) COMMENTS**

12. Ack CJTF 629 verbal guidance 301200 Mar. This SITREP will be the last to cover both JTG 629.4 (SA) and JTG 629.5 (Tasmania) as JTG 629.5 capacity develops to enable self-reporting of independent ops.

13. Both JTGs remain closely engaged with civil authorities in respective States. No change to planning and tasks underway as reported. In Tasmania I expect execution of ADF support to quarantine compliance checks in next 24 h.. In SA civil authorities continue to monitor this closely.

14. Brief to CJTF to follow NLT COB 30 Mar with recommendations to enable independent ops of JTG 629.5 ASAP.

#### COMD JTG629.6 (WA) COMMENTS

15. HQ JTG 629.6 continued planning support to the SHICC focussing on vessel evacuation contingencies. JTG 629.6 completed DACC 4 tasking, PM 29 Mar 20 to transport evacuee cargo from Fremantle Port. JTG 629.6 facilitated PPE training for civilian personnel supporting the evacuation operations from the *Vasco de Gama*. Ongoing planning occurring for potential mass vessel (*MV Artania*) evacuation planned within 24 hrs.

16. JTG 629.6 received notification approval of DACC 6 support to Western Australian Police (WAPOL). Support of 50 personnel to augment WAPOL quarantine compliance checks are scheduled to commence NB 31 0800h Mar 20. ADF planners to augment WAPOL planning from 30 Mar 20. Force preparation and mission specific training of 50 pers force element conducted by JTG 629.6 on 30 Mar 20. An exported Force Preparation package provided to HMAS Stirling FE and Pilbara Regt to decentralise the training across Irwin Barracks, HMAS Stirling and regional depots.

#### COMD JTG 629.7 (NT) COMMENTS

17. NT Health and Northern Territory Police (NTPOL) continue to discuss how they will execute compliance checks. The Police Commissioner has directed at least 200 checks are to be conducted daily. I anticipate the ADF will be requested to assist with this task within the next 24-48 h.

18. Remote communities have begun to report shortages of some long-life foods (canned and dry foods) as the larger retailers in the major centres are taking the bulk of foodstuffs. This is evidence that panic buying in the major centres is affecting supply in remote communities. The NT Government (Critical Goods and Services Team) has identified three 'at risk' communities which have low stock on hand of dry goods and fresh produce: West Daly region – Nganmarriyanga, West Arnhem – Adjumarllarl / Gunbalanya and Roper Gulf - Robinson River. The immediate requirement for each location is a single resupply that would bring stock on hand back to a safe level. The NT Government has developed a number of feasible COAs, generally involving chartered air and/or road freight. My J5 is linked up with the Critical Goods and Services Team and is developing JTG COAs should an interim solution be required while local contracts are being established.

19. I have been made aware of a deteriorating community health situation in the APY Lands, which intersects the borders of SA, NT, and WA. I note that MSC has received a copy of a letter from Directors of the Nganampa Health Council to Federal and State Ministers which explicitly requests ADF logistic planning support to help them identify how the COVID-19 pandemic should be managed in their community. My recon planning team at the Alice Springs Southern Region Incident Management Team arrived today and will seek clarification on the situation in the APY lands from an NT perspective. While the SA Government is likely to lead any overall response, any ADF effort would need to be coordinated by the JTF HQ given the cross-border nature of the APY Lands.

20. I continue to receive positive feedback from the JTG support to NTPOL on the border control posts and with the NT Health contact tracing team. My planners are well linked with ongoing NT Government planning efforts. I will attend the next NT Emergency Management Council meeting this afternoon.

## INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

21. NSTR.

### FRIENDLY SITUATION

22. All JTGs remain closely engaged with civil authorities regarding ongoing planning. JTF629.1 (NSW) and JTG629.3 (QLD) have continued the escorting of air arrivals and quarantine compliance monitoring. Other JTGs remain postured to support respective State/Territory law enforcement agencies.

### OPERATIONS LAST 24 HOURS

23. **JTG629.1 (NSW/ACT):**

- a. *General Summary:* The disposition of the JTG remains unchanged. The JTG continues to conduct escort duties at Sydney International Airport and quarantine compliance monitoring at eight hotels in the Sydney CBD. The focus of the JTG in the last 24 h has been the Force Assignment (FA) and RSO&I of additional personnel from 17 BDE to reinforce the existing quarantine compliance tasks. The RSO&I for quarantine compliance is now supported by a dedicated training team from NSWPOL to assist with inter-agency integration.
- b. *Recon/Planning Teams:* The JTG Plans team is now established at the NSW POC in Surrey Hills. This will enhance the JTG's ability to forecast NSWPOL requirements for ADF support.
- c. *Contact Tracing Teams:* The latest rotation of 15 personnel have completed the formal training package and commenced on-the-job training at the NSW Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) in St Leonards.
- d. *Quarantine Compliance:* There are currently eight hotels operational. JTG629.1 is supporting the NSWPOL with approximately four personnel at each hotel. Six of these hotels are already at capacity, with an additional three hotels to be made operational in the next 24 h.

24. **JTG629.2 (VIC):**

- a. *General Summary:* The ADF should anticipate likely tactical support requests from State authorities beyond current commitments.
- b. *Recon Planning Team:* The Planning Team supported VIC Government planning in the quarantining of Australian citizens and residents returning from overseas. The plan being developed is centred on Melbourne International Airport, charter flights arriving at Essendon Airport as well as cargo crews who may alight at various maritime ports around VIC.
- c. *Contact Tracing Team:* No change from SITREP CAA 290900Z Mar 20.

**25. JTG629.3 (QLD):**

- a. *General Summary:* FE from JTG629.3 are continuing to conduct airport arrival and quarantine compliance tasks. Planning/liason with the QLD District Disaster Management Groups (DDMG) has been ongoing. ADF support to QLD Health with contact tracing recommenced today. JTG629.3 has submitted force requests for 51 FNQR and 3BDE FE in order to carry out VCP tasking in Far North QLD and Western Qld (Mt Isa area). Approval was given by the CDF on 30 Mar 20 for JTG629.3 to undertake this task (FRAGO 004 to CDF EXECUTO 2020/003).
- b. *Recon/Planning Team:* Focus of the planning teams embedded with the DDMG remains planning for the VCP support under DACC 4 or 6 under the Biosecurity Act in QPS.
- c. *Contact Tracing Team:* JTG629.3 re-established the contract tracing team (five personnel) with the Brisbane Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS).
- d. *Quarantine Compliance:* JTG629.3 FE continue to support QPS in both Cairns and Brisbane International Airports. Initial reports indicate that the task is progressing well without incident. The number of personnel disembarking from international flights have been less than what was anticipated.

**26. JTG629.4 (SA)**

- a. *General Summary (SA):* JTG629.4 remains closely engaged with SA civil authorities. Planning teams with SA Health have now expanded from three to four, with an additional planning team established in the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN)
- b. *Recon/Planning Team:* The Recon/Planning Team established in NALHN will be based at the Lyell McEwin Hospital in Elizabeth Vale.
- c. *Contact Tracing Team:* Has still not been requested from the SA Government.
- d. *Quarantine Compliance:* There are still no requests from the SA Government for ADF assistance to support quarantine compliance monitoring.

**27. JTG629.5 (TAS):**

- a. *General Summary (TAS):* Approval has now been provided for JTG629.6 FE to assist Tasmania Police (TASPOL) with quarantine compliance monitoring. This will commence on 01 Apr 20.
- b. *Recon/Planning Team:* No change from SITREP CAA 290900Z Mar 20.
- c. *Contact Tracing Team:* JTG629.6 continues to provide 24 personnel (two shifts of 12 personnel) to TAS Health.
- d. *Quarantine Compliance:* JTG629.6 will provide 40 personnel to TASPOL from 01 Apr 20 to assist with quarantine compliance monitoring.

**28. JTG629.6 (WA):**



- a. *General Summary:* JTG629.6 continues to plan for the disembarkation of personnel from the vessels *MV Artania* and *Vasco Da Gama*. Five JTG629.9 personnel conducted PPE training at Fremantle Port to assist in the evacuation of passengers from the vessels.
  - b. *Recon/Planning Team:* No change from SITREP CAA 282000L Mar 20. Informal liaison is occurring to augment the Broome Hospital with 1 x ADF Health Planner.
  - c. *Contact Tracing Team:* Support to WA Health with contact tracing is ongoing. Includes two pers (1 x CTT Trainer and 1 x CMA) for seven days per week. Likely duration is several months. No ability with JTG to supplement with additional CMA capabilities.
  - d. *Quarantine Compliance:* The WA Police (WAPOL) have submitted a DACC request for JTG629.6 to support quarantine compliance monitoring as well as support to the major arterial road closures that are planned for the Perth CBD. The DAAC approval is pending. JTG629.6 is prepared to support these tasks from 01 Apr 20.
29. **JTG629.7 (NT):**
- a. *General Summary:* TU BUFFALO FEs remain established and integrated with NTPOL border control points at Timber Creek, Avon Downs, and Kulgera.
  - b. *Recon/Planning Team:* A two person recon planning team has arrived in Alice Springs and has commenced liaison with the Alice Springs Southern Region Incident Management Team.
  - c. *Contact Tracing Team:* No change from SITREP CAA 290900Z Mar 20.
  - d. *Quarantine Compliance:* JTG629.7 remains on stand-by to support isolation compliance checks with 50 ADF personnel within the Darwin local area. The J3 is working with regional HQs (NORFORCE & SADFO RAAF Tindal) in order to confirm COAs which support this task in regional areas. A formal request for assistance from the NT Government is anticipated in the next 48 h.

### OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

30. JTF629 will continue to support international arrivals and support respective civilian police authorities with quarantine compliance monitoring checks. JTF629.3 will conduct final planning with QPS in preparation for the establishment of VCP on 01 Apr 20 to restrict access to indigenous communities in vicinity of Cairns and Mt Isa.

### JOR STATUS

KEY COMPONENT	STATUS	COMMENT
JOR WATCHKEEPERS		Less 2 x Battle CAPT. Currently being sourced by HQ FORCOMD
JOR ADMIN		
ICT PERS		Nil J6 staff ident ATT.



BRANCH WATCHKEEPER		Less J2 / J1 and J6. Will require supplementation from wider ADF.
LO		Standing liaison established with AVN, RAAF, 17 CSS BDE, JLC, 6 BDE SOCOMD. Maritime Liaison TBC.
STAFF PLANNERS		
EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES		Currently establish working space for staff using current infrastructure. Plans being developed to expand facilities.
LEGEND		
		100% Capability. Fully Operational. No issues
		70-100% Capability. Requires minor staff supplementation or remedial works. Able to function with limited capacity.
		70-0% No Capability. Requires significant remedial work or augmentation.

### CAPABILITY ISSUES

31. NSTR.

### PERSONNEL ISSUES

#### Personnel

32. As per JTF629 PERSTAT CAA 290800L Mar 20.

#### COVID Infection Situation

	Number of Personnel	Organisation
Confirmed Cases	NIL	
Self-Isolation	NIL	
Pending Test Result	NIL	
Recovered / Cleared	NIL	

#### Personnel Incident Reporting

33. NSTR.

#### WHS Reporting/Safety

34. NSTR.

### LOGISITIC ISSUES

35. NSTR

## RFIs

36. NSTR.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

37. NSTR.

## JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY

JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY – CAA 290900Z MAR 20				
JTG629.1 (NSW)				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to NSW SEOC and ACT Health	22 Mar 20		6	
Support to NSW Health Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		35	
Support to NSW Foodbank			15	Packing food hampers for self-isolated personnel
Syd International Airport Quarantine Task	29 Mar 20		36	
Quarantine Compliance Checks	29 Mar 20		48	Monitoring international arrivals in seven Sydney hotels
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Lockdown of Sydney Metropolitan area [1]	TBC		700	Battalion size strength task ISO NSW police. Anticipated date of commencement unknown.
JTG629.2 (VIC)				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
SCC/EMV LO Team	22 Mar 20		2	
Support to VIC DHHS Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		8	
SCC Planning Assistance Team	22 Mar 20		5	
SPOC Planning Team	22 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to VICPOL	NB 29 Mar 20		TBC	'Back of House' support. Nil anticipated requirement to support Quarantine Compliance.
Scoping by JOSS-V for Mortuary Storage [2]	Not identified		TBC	Scoping for refrigerated storage of up to 1000 deceased pers.
JTG629.3 (QLD)				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
LO in SDCC	22 Mar 20		2	

Regional Planning Teams	24 Mar 20		5	Located in Townsville, Cairns, Mt Isa, Gympie and Rockhampton
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		40 (BNE 36) (Cairn, 4)	Brisbane and Cairns International Airport
Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		12	Cairns hotel
Contact Tracing	30 Mar 20		5	Team reinstated
Support to QPOL VCPs	1 Apr 20		TBC	Approved. To be conducted IVO Cairns and Mt Isa. Spt request from defence will be logistic and comms.
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		27	Planned expansion to Cairns airport
Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		100	RSO&I completed. Awaiting DACC request. Not anticipated at this stage
<b>JTG629.4 (SA)</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Teams	22 Mar 20		8	ISO South Australia Health
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Support to Quarantine Compliance and Contract Tracing	N/A		50	'Call-for' complete. Capacity to support but unlikely, as authorities have sufficient organic staff.
<b>JTG629.5 (TAS)</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	ISO TAS Health
Contract Tracing Team	Not identified		24	DACC 4 request submitted
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Quarantine Compliance	01 Apr 20		40	Will commence on 01 Apr 20.
Secure storage for medical supplies and inventory management	ASAP		N/A	Awaiting
<b>JTG629.6 (WA)</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		9	ISO SHICC Health
Vasco De Gama cargo unload	28 Mar 20		10	Task completed 0100 L, 29 MAR 20
Contract Tracing	24 Mar 20		3	Potential expansion being scoped
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE</b>	<b>TASK</b>	<b>NO OF</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>



	COMMENCEMENT DATE	STATUS	PERS	
Mortuary Overflow Storage	TBC		TBC	Currently being scoped. Irwin Barracks is a third option
Perth CBD major arterial road closure and Compliance Monitoring	01 Apr 20		100	Pending approval of DACC request
1 x Planner Broome Hospital	TBC		1	Informal liaison ongoing
<b>JTG629.7 (NT)</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	
Support to NT Border Checkpoints	23 Mar 20		35	Deployed to Kulgera, Timber Creek, Avon Downs
Contact Trace Team	24 Mar 20		5	Royal Darwin Hospital
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Quarantine Compliance	Not identified		50	
Alice Springs LO Team	30 Mar 20		2	
Resupply of dry goods and fresh produce to 'at risk' NT communities'.	TBC		TBC	Resupply West Daly region, West Arnhem and Roper Gulf. JTG working options with NT Government.

ACTIVE	HIGHLY LIKELY	SCOPING BY STATE AGENCY	COMPLETED
--------	---------------	-------------------------	-----------

Prepared by: J3 HQ JTF629  
Released by: COFS HQ JTF629



## JTF629 - SITREP

### JTF629 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJOC – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 300900Z MAR 20 TO 310900Z MAR 20

#### COMD COMMENTS

1. **COMD JTF629:**

- a. The majority of tasks being undertaken by JTF629 is occurring in NSW and QLD. In both instances the JTG are supporting their respective states authorities in the quarantine compliance monitoring of returning international travellers. We have indications that this effort in NSW and QLD will likely increase in the coming days based on the forecasted returning traveller numbers. I also note advice that there is a potential requirement to also assist NSW with quarantine compliance of returning cruise ships and commercial vessels at NSW Ports in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. Currently there are twelve vessels off the coast of NSW.
- b. In Victoria we are seeing minimal requests for ADF support. CJTG629.2 has advised that their routine engagements with the State Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) indicates that he is satisfied that the control arrangements implemented by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the Control Agency for the Class 2 COVID-19 emergency are effective. It is also assessed that the EMC is satisfied with the actions of all other government agencies supporting the Control Agency.
- c. JTF629 is acting on your approval to reorganise JTG629.1 (NSW and ACT) to raise JTG629.9 (ACT). This will provide dedicated liaison and planning support directly to the ACT government as is the case in the Northern Territory; COL John Brennan will command JTG629.9. A modest OSD will enable them to undertake their mission and you should expect separate reporting from CJTG629.9 in tomorrow night's SITREP.
- d. The HQ JTF629 staff are working with the JOC J1/4 staff to finalise the approved OSD for HQ JTF629. I acknowledge your guidance to continually review the size and shape of my HQ. It is my intent to flow forces and staff augmentees in and out of JTF629 as the needs demand; only retaining those ADF personnel and capabilities I need to achieve my mission.

2. **JTG629.1 (NSW):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *The main effort remains quarantine compliance of returning international air travellers, with supporting efforts being contact tracing and assistance to Foodbank. These tasks require over 270 troops on these tasks by 03 Apr 20. Planning staff are working with NSW Police (NSWPOL) to assess broader compliance requirements of arrivals by sea, and broader checks of personnel in self-isolation (est to be 30,000 pers), which unlike the air arrivals, will be ongoing and will exceed the capacity of NSWPOL.*
- b. **General Summary:** The reinforcement of personnel from 17 BDE and RAN to undertake quarantine compliance tasks has satisfied the immediate demand for ADF

support. This task, however, will continue to grow based off forecasted returning traveller numbers. An emerging task is the potential requirement to also assist with quarantine compliance of returning cruise ships and commercial vessels at NSW Ports in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. Currently there are twelve vessels off the coast of NSW.

- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** RSO&I of RAN personnel has commenced at HMAS Kuttubul and will continue until 01 Apr 20. The first tranche of 50 will commence support from tomorrow. This will see the DACC 6 staffing cap of 300 reached from 01 Apr 20. NSWPOL have indicated further support will be requested and an amendment to the original DACC 6 is being staffed through JOSS NSW as a priority. Discussions with COMSHORE have also confirmed a way forward to support the Chilean Navy personnel currently undergoing quarantine and self-isolation in Sydney. MAROPS will provide 30 RAN personnel to quarantine compliance monitoring.
3. **JTG629.2 (VIC):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *Emergency Management VIC (EMV) Op SOTERIA (management of international arrivals into VIC) has been progressing well, with less numbers than expected. There were 321 International arrivals yesterday and an expectation of 200 today. Expected to be 1,000 pax total by tomorrow, predominantly held at Crown. There continues to be no requests for ADF assistance in the execution of this Operation.*
  - b. *Scoping of an ESF Section and C2 element to support a request from Victoria Police (VICPOL) to support the Ballarat Police Advice Line (PAL) in support of VICPOL Quarantine Compliance operations. The DACC request is currently being processed by JOSS-V for approval. The PAL assistance team will be required to use various electronic means to monitor and confirm the location of identified individuals who are required to be in mandated quarantine. Roles will include triaging phone calls and other electronic communications from the public, regarding identified individuals who are believed to be in contravention of Quarantine Compliance. It will also involve proactively contacting members of the public by phone and/or electronic means to confirm Quarantine Compliance.*
  - c. *HQ is reviewing the JTG OSD as a priority. An initial draft is to be forward to HQ JTF for review Wed 01 Apr 20. This will include indicative shortfalls and reinforcement requirements and priorities. The HQ has also established informal links with VIC based SADFOs and major ADF units to establish C2 network for VIC. We will continue to develop this to ensure formal C2 arrangements are in place by Fri 3 Apr 20.*
  - d. **General Summary:** JTG629.2 should anticipate likely tactical support requests from State authorities beyond current commitments.
  - e. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - f. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.



- g. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 300300Z Mar 20. JTG629.2 FE remain on standby to support requests from VICPOL.
4. **JTG629.3 (QLD):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *Compliance support to Queensland Police (QPS) from international airports to hotels increased due to exceeding capacity of existing hotels, currently sufficient forces available but will closely monitor if TU needs to be reinforced. Contact tracing task continues with expansion by one additional team next 24hrs. Revised COAs for support to QPS VCP into remote indigenous communities provided to JTF, have limited capacity with existing assigned FE to achieve only 1 of the 4 QPS VCP by 1 APR. Additional 4 QPS VCP to be established 3-7 APR, if 3 BDE ESF COY force assigned that will provide sufficient FE for Mt Isa DDMG task. Will provide CONOP next 24hrs for establishment of TU across the QLD AOR. Meeting with SDC today to discuss ADF support.*
- b. **General Summary:** FE from JTG 629.3 continued to conduct airport reception and quarantine compliance monitoring tasks. Planning/liaison with remote QLD District Disaster Management Groups (DDMG) for VCP support tasks in FNQ remains ongoing in preparation for deployment on 01 Apr 20.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- e. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** FE continued to support QPS at both Cairns and Brisbane International Airports. JTG629.2 has now commenced quarantine compliance monitoring of travellers located in a hotel in Southbank Brisbane. This location is highly populated and heavily trafficked by the public. There has been significant interest by the public in the ADF involvement at the hotel.
5. **JTG629.4 (SA):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG 629.4 (SA) remains closely engaged with SA civil authorities through the State Emergency Centre and direct engagements by CJTG with State political and emergency leadership. No change to the planning support teams underway as reported.*
- b. *I assess SA is operating within State capacities currently. There is no active request for ADF support to either the contact tracing or compliance checks at this time, however we track this closely and am postured to respond quickly with sustainable FE capacity if requested.*
- c. *My short term priorities are determining and preparing for potential requests for ADF support including support to APY lands communities; development of the JTG OSD for JTF consideration; and FA requests to JTF HQ to build and sustain the JTG.*
- d. **General Summary:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20

- e. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- f. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- g. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- 6. **JTG629.5 (TAS):**
  - a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG structure and sustainment brief provided to CJTF629 and forms the basis of execution for the JTG. The establishment of JTF 629.5 HQ at Anglesea Barracks is underway and expected to be FOC by Fri 3 Apr 20. Liaison with SCC is continuing to refine requirements. Contact tracing teams are continuing their good work ISO TAS Health and we expect compliance checking to begin in the next 24-48 hrs in support of Tasmania Police (TASPOL). Note that media are already reporting ADF assistance to TASPOL on that task. Awaiting formal force assignment of FE but executing tasks IAW COMD intent.*
  - b. **General Summary:** Preparations for spt to TASPOL quarantine compliance monitoring is ongoing. JTG629.6 will provide 20 personnel in Hobart, 10 personnel in Launceston and 10 personnel in Burnie.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** Anticipated to commence within the next 24-48 h.
- 7. **JTG629.6 (WA):**
  - a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG Support to OP C19A is progressing steadily with various lines of effort including effective planning in the SHICC, support to maritime ops, likely ongoing. Heavy RAN integration has occurred with JTG-629.6, integration with RAAF still limited. JTG HQ firmly established (OSD submitted). RSO&I in effect for immediately required personnel, whilst processing additional members for short notice tasks. LO network integrated into WAPOL incident control centre (Optus Stadium). State agencies are frustrated with DACC request process which is hindering our ability to effectively respond to emerging tasks. Potential reputational risk amongst external agencies.*
  - b. **General Summary:** JTG629.6 FE continue to provide planning support to the WA State SHICC, resulting in multiple DACC tasks around the evacuation and transportation of personnel and stores from passenger ships to health facilities, quarantined accommodation and APODs. DACC 6 tasks for the quarantine compliance monitoring and VCPs are currently being scoped with WAPOL. The *Vasco Da Gama* has now completed disembarkation of all passengers/cargo and has now departed Fremantle Port.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.

- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** HQ JTG629.6 continued liaison with WAPOL to determine support requirements for quarantine compliance monitoring. WAPOL have identified potential legal issues regarding the conduct of joint patrols.
- 8. **JTG629.7 (NT):**
  - a. *COMDs Comments: All personnel entering the NT will be subject to supervised isolation in a hotel from 012359IK Apr 20. This has ramifications for our personnel returning from courses or deployments and their isolation will need to be funded at Commonwealth expense.*
  - b. *NT Police are planning additional border check points and will likely request JTG 629.7 support to these locations. Such a request would come with significant logistical, medical and communications requirements. I will continue to work with key NT Government stakeholders to develop options.*
  - c. *The NT Government is focused on increasing presence at likely border crossing points and developing mechanisms to ensure vulnerable communities are further protected. I anticipate an increase in DACC requests over the next 72 hours as these plans develop. I will attend the next Territory Emergency Management Council meeting tomorrow afternoon.*
  - d. **General Summary:** JTG 629.7 continues to support the NT Government in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - e. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
  - f. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20
  - g. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.7 provided 9 personnel for the conduct of quarantine compliance monitoring. Each team consisted of 1 x ADF member, 1 x NTPOL Officer and 1 x NT Health Officer.

### OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

- 9. JTF629 will continue to support international arrivals and support respective civilian police authorities with quarantine compliance monitoring checks. JTF629.3 will conduct final planning with QPS in preparation for the establishment of VCP on 01 Apr 20 to restrict access to indigenous communities in vicinity of Cairns and Mt Isa.

### CAPABILITY ISSUES

- 10. NSTR.

**PERSONNEL ISSUES****Personnel**

11. As per JTF629 PERSTAT CAA 302100Z Mar 20.

**COVID Infection Situation**

	<b>Number of Personnel</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	NIL	
<b>Self-Isolation</b>	NIL	
<b>Pending Test Result</b>	NIL	
<b>Recovered / Cleared</b>	NIL	

**Personnel Incident Reporting**

12. NSTR.

**WHS Reporting/Safety**

13. NSTR.

**LOGISITIC ISSUES**

14. NSTR

**RFIs**

15. NSTR.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

16. NSTR.

**JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY**

<b>JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY – CAA 31 0750Z MAR 20</b>				
<b>JTG629.1 (NSW/ACT) – HQ Size: 15</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Support to NSW SEOC and ACT Health	22 Mar 20		15	NSW planners at State Emergency Operations Centre - Homebush
Support to NSW Health Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		30	At NSW Health Public Health Emergency Operation Centre – St Leonards
Support to NSW Foodbank			15	Packing food hampers for self-isolated personnel
Syd International Airport Quarantine Task	29 Mar 20		40	
Quarantine Compliance Checks	29 Mar 20		163	Monitoring international



				arrivals in eight Sydney hotels Section sized teams accommodated at hotels. Rotation is currently run within the unit, rotating between hotels. No formal replacements at this time.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Lockdown of Sydney Metropolitan area	TBC		700	Battalion size strength task ISO NSW police. Anticipated date of commencement unknown.
Expansion of ESF – Army contingent	01 Apr		100	
Expansion of QCM – Navy contingent	01 Apr		100	Training occurring 31 Mar – likely deploy from 01 Apr
Expansion of QCM – RAAF contingent	02 Apr		100 (TBC)	Current scoping and planning for up to 100 Airmen/women to support QCM
<b>JTG629.2 (VIC) – JTG HQ: 23</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
SCC/EMV LO Team	22 Mar 20		2	
Support to VIC DHHS Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		8	
SCC Planning Assistance Team	22 Mar 20		7	
SPOC Planning Team	22 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Emergency Support Force Tranche 1	N/A		166	No identified task. Nil anticipated requirement to support Quarantine Compliance at this time. <sup>1</sup>
Emergency Support Force Tranche 2	N/A		176	
Scoping by JOSS-V for Mortuary Storage <sup>2</sup>	Not identified		TBC	Scoping for refrigerated storage of up to 1000 deceased pers.
<b>JTG629.3 (QLD) – JTG HQ: 95</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
LO in SDCC	22 Mar 20		2	
Regional Planning Teams	24 Mar 20		5	Located in Townsville, Cairns, Mt Isa, Gympie and Rockhampton
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		40 (BNE 36) (Cairns, 4)	Brisbane and Cairns International Airport

<sup>1</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 29 MAR 20 – Comd Comments: “at this time senior VICPOL leadership have confirmed that they do not require assistance with quarantine compliance through spotchecks and monitoring of gatherings.”

<sup>2</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 28 MAR 20

Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		16	Cairns hotel
Contact Tracing	24 Mar		5	Team reinserted – Restarted 31 Mar
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to International Arrivals	01 Apr 20		27	Planned expansion to Cairns airport
Quarantine Compliance	01 Apr 20		100	RSO&I completed. Awaiting DACC request. Not anticipated at this stage
Support to QPOL VCPs	01 Apr 20		30+ (TBC)	REF: Corrected Copy – CJOPS TO 20/11 – ADF Spt to QLD Govt REF: FRAGO 2 HQ FORCOMD TO 1840-20 – 3 BDE Augment JTF629 w. 1x Coy. To be conduct IVO Cairns and Mt Isa (3BDE elmt). Spt request from defence will be support to VCP, logistic and comms. BPT expand to include Townsville, Rockhampton and Gympie districts.
<b>JTG629.4 (SA) – JTG HQ: 17</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Teams	22 Mar 20		10	ISO South Australia Health.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to Quarantine Compliance and Contract Tracing	N/A		50	'Call-for' complete. Capacity to support but unlikely, as authorities have sufficient organic staff.
Clerical and traffic flow pers	UNK		UNK	Awaiting JTG629.4 confirmation
<b>JTG629.5 (TAS)</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	ISO TAS Health
Contract Tracing Team	Not identified		12	DACC 4 request submitted not yet approved.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Secure storage for medical supplies and inventory management	ASAP		N/A	Awaiting
Support to TASPOL	01 Apr		40	DACC 6 approval -
<b>JTG629.6 (WA) – JTG HQ: 37</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		11	ISO SHICC Health
Vasco De Gama cargo unload	28 Mar 20		10	
Contract Tracing	24 Mar 20		2	Potential expansion being scoped
Move COVID infected patients from	02 0100Z Apr		4	Awaiting confirmation of task



Perth hospital to Perth hotel	20			
Perth CBD closure of arterial roads and support to WAPOL	Fm 01 Apr		Unknown	Awaiting DACC 6
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Mortuary Overflow Storage	TBC		TBC	Currently being scoped. Irwin Barracks is a third option
<b>JTG629.7 (NT) – JTG HQ: 51</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		7	
Support to NT Border Checkpoints	23 Mar 20		35	Deployed to Kulgera, Timber Creek, Avon Downs
Contact Trace Team	24 Mar 20		4	Royal Darwin Hospital
Quarantine Compliance	31 Mar 20		9	IVO Darwin Township
Alice Springs LO Team	30 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Resupply of dry goods and fresh produce to 'at risk' NT communities'.	TBC		TBC	Resupply West Daly region, West Arnhem and Roper Gulf. JTG working options with NT Government.

ACTIVE

HIGHLY LIKELY

SCOPING BY STATE AGENCY

COMPLETED

Prepared by: J3 HQ JTF629  
Released by: COFS HQ JTF629



## JTF629 - SITREP

### JTF629 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJOC – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 310900Z MAR 20 TO 010900Z APR 20

#### COMD COMMENTS

1. **COMD JTF629:**

- a. JTF629 has confirmed the distribution of the 'Guidance for Isolation Compliance & Welfare Checks by ADF', 'Compliance Check SOP' and the 'OpC19A Form: Record of Compliance and Welfare Check' to all ADF personnel undertaking Quarantine Compliance Check tasks and Self-Isolation Compliance Check tasks. The use of these documents are included in our mission specific training for those being force assigned to undertake these types of tasks. We are also working with the JOC J06 to develop an overarching code of conduct card for issue to all members of JTF629. The JFSG is developing options to print these documents onto robust plastic cards.
- b. JTF629.6 (WA) has commenced the DACC 6 task to support WAPOL restriction of movement across mandated zones in the state, including along main arterial routes into Perth. The joint WAPOL/ADF task includes 5-6 WAPOL per site to ensure compliance and 3-4 ADF members reading pre-prepared scripts to vehicle occupants that comply with WAPOL direction. The scripts, reviewed by JTF629.6 J06, explain why movement control has been established. ADF personnel are not involved in enforcing compliance of WAPOL direction.
- c. Today we integrated CDRE Paul O'Grady in JTF629 as my Deputy Commander. His recent tenure with the Defence COVID-19 TF will provide us with useful insights to the key strategic issues.

2. **JTF629.1 (NSW):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *We have successfully incorporated RAN personnel into the task of quarantining returning air travellers. The task of supervising the Chilean sailors and returning MEOA MASS pers have been de-conflicted. The task of assisting NSWPOL with quarantine and compliance at key ports of Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong and Eden has been staffed to JOSS. This has been scrutinised by our staff and I assess that it would require a sub-unit strength FE to complete.*
- b. **General Summary:** JTF629.1 has conducted RSO&I for a large number of RAN, Army and RAAF FE in order to generate the effects requested by NSW Government for quarantine compliance monitoring.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** Planning has centred on support to MEOA MASS Flight quarantine tasking. Joint planning with NSWPOL has confirmed a COA to receive, transfer and then quarantine 41 returning ADF personnel in Sydney. The location will

not be used to quarantine civilian travellers and ADF will have primacy to enforce compliance.

- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
- e. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** RSO&I of RAN personnel (including those assigned from MAROPS to support Chilean Navy tasking) continued at HMAS Kuttabul, the first tranche becoming operational from AM 01 Apr 20. The DACC 6 staffing cap of 300 is being closely managed, particularly as RAAF personnel are Force Assigned from 02 Apr 20 to relieve Army FE.

3. **JTG629.2 (VIC):**

- a. ***COMDs Comments:** The last 24 h has seen a steadying of the tempo of the last two weeks. I am extremely happy with the JTGs progress to date as transitioning FE through the mounting process by remote continues to mature at a steady pace. The use of a webinar to deliver briefs has been very successful and demonstrates our people's ingenuity to find simple solutions to problems turning a constraint into a freedom of manoeuvre. The SCC Embed team continues to assist SCC and in consultation with a number of the key departments, refine internal request processes.*
- b. **General Summary:** An urgent isolation exemption was processed through JTG629.2 to the VIC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with approval received from the Deputy Public Health Commander VIC for two ADF civilian contractors based in Melbourne and a RAAF charter flight aircrew from Air Affairs. The aircraft will return to its base in Nowra today while the work is completed and then collect the BAE contractors from Darwin when the work is complete. The use of this charter will reduce exposure to the general public and staff at the airport. Likely departure from Darwin is 2 April 20.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
- e. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 3300Z Mar 20. JTG629.2 FE remain on standby to support requests from VICPOL.

4. **JTG629.3 (QLD):**

- a. ***COMDs Comments:** FA of FE from Army for task to protect remote indigenous communities puts JTG in good position to deliver support, particularly given cultural sensitivities in those communities. Continuing operations to support international arrivals within current FE, will monitor if an increase is needed next 48-72hrs, particularly for MEAO returning personnel. Contact tracing team continues to support QLD Health. Developing effects based CONOP for expected task from QLD State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) next 24-48 h to support closure of QLD border on Friday 3 April. Shaping for support to remote locations rather than major arterial routes. Draft OSD for JTG provided to JTF HQ, stepping up JTG HQ to Mounting Facility and Simulation Centre next 24 h.*

- b. **General Summary:** FE from JTG 629.3 conducted airport arrival quarantine tasks and assisted with movement into quarantine hotels. Planning/liaison with remote QLD District Disaster Management Groups (DDMG) is ongoing.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** Continued to monitor local atmospherics as well as attend local government and QFES meetings in Mt Isa, Cairns, Gympie, Townsville and Rockhampton.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Airport Reception/Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.3 continued to assist QPOL with airport reception and quarantine of personnel in QLD hotels. JTG629.6 also assisted QPOL with the movement of returning international travellers from Brisbane Airport to a Gold Coast quarantine hotel.
5. **JTG629.4 (SA):**
- a. ***COMDs Comments:** JTG 629.4 (SA) remains closely engaged with SA civil authorities. No change to the planning support teams underway as reported. I do not anticipate requests in next 48 hours for contact tracing or compliance checks but am postured to support these and other tasks quickly if requested, including potential SA Health or SA Police operations in APY Lands. I assess SA is operating within State capacities. I am working to confirm by positive reporting any exposure to JTG personnel arising from the outbreak of COVID-19 at the Adelaide airport reported yesterday. I assess there is very low risk of impact upon our personnel or degradation to JTG capacity at this time. There is a strong desire from State Coordinator (SAPOL Commissioner) for ADF engagement and inclusion in their media stories to assist in assurance of civilian community, building on excellent ADF reputation following OP BA. I have advised this is not permitted at this time and referred this request to CJTF. Defence Media (MECC Div) is tracking this request separately. My short term priorities remain development of the JTG OSD for JTF consideration; determining and preparing for potential requests for ADF support; and FA requests to JTF HQ to build and sustain the JTG.*
  - b. **General Summary:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
6. **JTG629.5 (TAS):**
- a. ***COMDs Comments:** The State is about to declare community transmission of the virus in the northwest. Despite that, there has been no change to JTF current or likely tasking. JTF 629.5 HQ at IOC. Good cooperation is being received from Services with informal liaison identifying pers availability and capability. Intent is to have joint representation on the JTG HQ and with tasked FE in the coming weeks. Compliance checking task ISO TASPOL begins tomorrow morning with teams in the northwest, north and south of the State. Work today with SADFO/BSM to review PERP and BCP*

*included identification of possible JTG HQ alternate locations. Contact tracing teams are continuing their good work in support of TAS Health. I am working with JTF PAO and TASPOL media to be able to respond if necessary to media engagement as our compliance teams move out 02 Apr.*

- b. **General Summary:** Quarantine Compliance Monitoring in support of TASPOL will commence in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie from 02 Apr 20.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** Final preparations for support to TASPOL quarantine compliance monitoring were completed. JTG629.6 will provide 20 personnel in Hobart, 10 personnel in Launceston and 10 personnel in Burnie
7. **JTG629.6 (WA):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG 629.6 commenced support to the Western Australian Police (WAPOL) in the reporting period. This support is in the assistance of conduct with Vehicle Check Points around the Perth Metro Area. No law enforcement activities are being conducted by JTG members. JTG Support to OP C19A is progressing steadily with various lines of effort including planning the in WA State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) and embed of liaison officers into the Police Incident Control Centre and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Heavy RAN integration has occurred with JTG-629.66 and integration with RAAF progressing.*
  - b. **General Summary:** JTG629.6 DACC 6 task has commenced to support WAPOL restriction of movement across mandated zones in the state. 5-6 WAPOL per site will ensure compliance and 3-4 ADF members will read pre-prepared scripts to vehicle occupants that comply with WAPOL direction. Scripts reviewed by JTG629.6 J06 explain why movement control has been established. ADF personnel are not involved in enforcement of compliance of WAPOL direction. JTG629.6 provided movement support for cargo disembarked from maritime vessels. There are no anticipated tasks in the near future to support maritime vessel evacuations
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** LOs and Planning Teams are embedded at WA SHICC, WA Police Incident Centre (Optus Stadium), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and Broome Hospital.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 310900Z Mar 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** Whilst approved, quarantine compliance monitoring with WAPOL has not commenced.
8. **JTG629.7 (NT):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG support to NT Government compliance checking commenced yesterday with Joint teams, comprising an NT Police (NTPOL) officer, NT Health Officer and ADF member, operating across Darwin. Currently, my biggest concern is in the Southern Region. The EOC in Alice Springs has reported a large number of people*



*entering the town to access the \$750 Federal Government stimulus package, including large numbers from the APY Lands. These people are now becoming restless due to the Biosecurity Act quarantine restrictions. This has led to security and non-compliance concerns with an acknowledgment by NTPOL that they are currently spread too thin on the ground. Acknowledging our limited legal powers, I expect a request to deploy FE to Alice Springs to support the local authorities conduct planning, compliance checks, and vehicle check points within the next 48h.*

- b. **General Summary:** NTPOL are attempting to isolate Alice Springs from external entities to limit the possibility of COVID-19 being transmitted to indigenous communities; there are now NTPOL VCPs on all access roads in and out of the town. In the coming days, anyone entering Alice Springs will be required to move into quarantine for a 14-day period before they are allowed to return to their remote community. This is a significant friction point for many locals who travel to Alice Springs to collect essential supplies. It is expected that NTPOL will request support to their operations in vicinity of Alice Springs within the next 24 h.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 300900Z Mar 20
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.7 provided 3 personnel for the conduct of quarantine compliance monitoring with NT government agencies.
- 9. **JTG629.8 (JFSG):**
  - a. **COMDs Comments:** *The JFSG has established the headquarters structure and a proposed OSD has been submitted for approval. The current HQ JFSG OSD is inherently Joint and will require significant staffing commitment from the Services prior to reaching full operating capability. JFSG Liaison Officers have now been stood up within each JTG regional location, less WA. HQ JFSG are supporting HQJTF629 with the ongoing development of the task flow and approval processes for specialist logistics and health support in preparation for the release of the operational Support Order. The JFSG is currently contributing to live tasks in NSW, NT and TAS. Major commitments include the supplementation of 95 general duties staff to the quarantine compliance task in Sydney; medical support to NT border checkpoints; contact tracing in NT and TAS; and, health screening at MASS flight points of embarkation. Future tasks will include the supplementation of general duties staff to the quarantine compliance task in Tasmania. Additionally, HQ JFSG has responded to RFIs regarding the availability of water transport assets to support developing MBC tasks in the Torres Strait.*
  - b. **General Summary:** JTG629.8 is currently in the process of establishing and scoping support requirements. Current tasks include augmentation of the JTGs with specialist staffing, conducting health planning in conjunction with state authorities, and establishing an LO network within the JTGs. JTG629.8 has also deployed 3 medical technicians in support of JTG 629.7 at NT border crossing locations.
  - c. **Contact Tracing Team:** A Nursing Officer is employed at the Royal Darwin Hospital in support of JTG 629.7 Contact Tracing. There are 13 personnel currently conducting contact tracing in support of JTG 629.5 in TAS.

- d. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.8 have deployed 95 personnel (General Duty) to support NSWPOL in conducting quarantine compliance monitoring in Sydney.

### OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

10. No significant change

### CAPABILITY ISSUES

11. NSTR.

### PERSONNEL ISSUES

#### Personnel

JTG	TOTAL PERS
HQ JTF629	87
JTG629.1	402
JTG629.2	41
JTG629.3	181
JTG629.4	38
JTG629.5	64
JTG629.6	79
JTG629.7	99
JTG629.8	117
JTG629.9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1108</b>

### COVID Infection Situation

	Number Personnel	of Organisation
Confirmed Cases	NIL	
Self-Isolation	NIL	
Pending Test Result	NIL	
Recovered / Cleared	NIL	

### Personnel Incident Reporting

12. NSTR.

### WHS Reporting/Safety

13. NSTR.

### LOGISITIC ISSUES

14. NSTR

### RFIs

15. NSTR.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

16. NSTR.

## JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY

JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY – CAA 01 0545Z APR 20				
JTG629.1 (NSW/ACT) – HQ Size: 15				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to NSW SEOC and ACT Health	22 Mar 20		15	NSW planners at State Emergency Operations Centre – Homebush
Support to NSW Health Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		30	At NSW Health Public Health Emergency Operation Centre – St Leonards
Support to NSW Foodbank			15	Packing food hampers for self-isolated personnel
Syd International Airport Quarantine Task	29 Mar 20		40	
Quarantine Compliance Checks	29 Mar 20		163	Monitoring international arrivals in eight Sydney hotels Section sized teams accommodated at hotels. Rotation is currently run within the unit, rotating between hotels. No formal replacements at this time.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Lockdown of Sydney Metropolitan area	TBC		700	Battalion size strength task ISO NSW police. Anticipated date of commencement unknown.
Expansion of ESF – Army contingent	01 Apr		100	
Expansion of QCM – Navy contingent	01 Apr		100	likely deploy from 01 Apr
Expansion of QCM – RAAF contingent	02 Apr		100 (TBC)	Current scoping and planning for up to 100 Airmen/women to support QCM
JTG629.2 (VIC) – JTG HQ: 23				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
SCC/EMV LO Team	22 Mar 20		2	
Support to VIC DHHS Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		8	
SCC Planning Assistance Team	22 Mar 20		7	
SPOC Planning Team	22 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Emergency Support Force Tranche	N/A		166	No identified task. Nil

1				anticipated requirement to support Quarantine Compliance at this time. <sup>1</sup>
Emergency Support Force Tranche 2	N/A		176	
Scoping by JOSS-V for Mortuary Storage <sup>2</sup>	Not identified		TBC	Scoping for refrigerated storage of up to 1000 deceased pers.
<b>JTG629.3 (QLD) – JTG HQ: 95</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
LO in SDCC	22 Mar 20		2	
Regional Planning Teams	24 Mar 20		5	Located in Townsville, Cairns, Mt Isa, Gympie and Rockhampton
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		74 (BNE 62) (Cairns, 12)	Brisbane and Cairns International Airport
Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		16	Cairns hotel
Contact Tracing	24 Mar		5	Team reinserted – Restarted 31 Mar
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to International Arrivals	01 Apr 20		27	Planned expansion to Cairns airport
Quarantine Compliance	01 Apr 20		100	RSO&I completed. Awaiting DACC request. Not anticipated at this stage
Support to QPOL VCPs	01 Apr 20		30+ (TBC)	REF: Corrected Copy – CJOPS TO 20/11 – ADF Spt to QLD Govt REF: FRAGO 2 HQ FORCOMD TO 1840-20 – 3 BDE Augment JTF629 w. 1x Coy. To be conduct IVO Cairns and Mt Isa (3BDE elmt). Spt request from defence will be support to VCP, logistic and comms. BPT expand to include Townsville, Rockhampton and Gympie districts.
<b>JTG629.4 (SA) – JTG HQ: 17</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Teams	22 Mar 20		10	ISO South Australia Health.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS

<sup>1</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 29 MAR 20 – Comd Comments: “at this time senior VICPOL leadership have confirmed that they do not require assistance with quarantine compliance through spotchecks and monitoring of gatherings.”

<sup>2</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 28 MAR 20



Support to Quarantine Compliance and Contract Tracing	N/A		50	'Call-for' complete. Capacity to support but unlikely, as authorities have sufficient organic staff.
Clerical and traffic flow pers	UNK		UNK	Awaiting JTG629.4 confirmation
<b>JTG629.5 (TAS)</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	ISO TAS Health
Contract Tracing Team	Not identified		24	DACC 4 request submitted not yet approved.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Secure storage for medical supplies and inventory management	ASAP		N/A	Awaiting
Support to TASPOL	01 Apr		40	DACC 6 approval -
<b>JTG629.6 (WA) – JTG HQ: 37</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		10	ISO SHICC Health
Vasco De Gama cargo unload	28 Mar 20		2	
Contract Tracing	24 Mar 20		2	Potential expansion being scoped
Move COVID infected patients from Perth hospital to Perth hotel	02 0100Z Apr 20		0	Awaiting confirmation of task
Perth CBD closure of arterial roads and support to WAPOL	Fm 01 Apr		34	TASKORD 002-20
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Mortuary Overflow Storage	TBC		TBC	Currently being scoped. Irwin Barracks is a third option
<b>JTG629.7 (NT) – JTG HQ: 51</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		1	
Support to NT Border Checkpoints	23 Mar 20		39	Deployed to Kulgera, Timber Creek, Avon Downs
Contact Trace Team	24 Mar 20		4	Royal Darwin Hospital
Quarantine Compliance	31 Mar 20		3	IVO Darwin Township
Alice Springs LO Team	30 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Resupply of dry goods and fresh produce to 'at risk' NT communities'.	TBC		TBC	Resupply West Daly region, West Arnhem and Roper Gulf. JTG working options with NT Government.

ACTIVE

HIGHLY LIKELY

SCOPING BY STATE AGENCY

COMPLETED



Prepared by: J3 HQ JTF629  
Released by: COFS HQ JTF629



## JTF629 - SITREP

### JTF629 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJOC – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 010900Z APR 20 TO 020900Z APR 20

#### COMD COMMENTS

1. **COMD JTF629:**

- a. Commander JTG629.1 has indicated that the cruise ships offshore from NSW remain a significant concern for NSW leadership, however, no request for ADF support has been received by JTG629.1, nor has there been any liaison or planning for support. We will continue to monitor this situation carefully. Separately JTG629.1 is tracking the request submitted by NSWPOL for ADF support to Quarantine Compliance Monitoring of commercial shipping coming alongside at the major ports of Newcastle, Sydney, Kembla and Eden. This will be a NSWPOL led effort at each of these ports.
- b. CJTG629.7 has advised that the situation in Alice Springs continues to be a concern for NTPOL. Their Biosecurity checkpoints (BCPs) on all major routes into Alice Springs to prevent people from moving into the interior and accessing remote communities has created unexpected second order effects due to the Federal Government's stimulus package. The stimulus package has resulted in people from the remote communities moving into Alice Springs to spend their \$750, and subsequently being quarantined in town for 14 days IAW the new NT biosecurity laws. These people are becoming increasingly agitated as they are unable to return to their communities. Others are either running the check points or bypassing and cutting bush tracks through the desert. Bottom line is the biosecurity and social distancing laws are not working for the communities and NTPOL do not have the capacity to enforce those laws. The Assistant Deputy Commissioner in Alice Springs has advised the JTG 629.7 Joint Liaison Team that the NTPOL are spread too thin and therefore AFP support has been requested, to free up NTPOL for community policing tasks. Additionally, NTPOL are currently preparing a request for ADF to provide additional support to the BCPs. CJTG's assessment is that the NTPOL main effort is in Darwin, and consequently their efforts in Alice Springs is both under resourced and not being heard in the Territory Emergency Management Council meetings. CJTG intends to conduct KLE in Alice Springs next week to gain greater SA of the situation in the southern region.
- c. We have sent the JOC J06 a copy of the JTF629 J06 assessment of the State and Territory travel restrictions. We have identified that VIC, TAS, WA, SA, NT and QLD have all characterised ADF members travelling on duty as essential travellers who do not need to undergo 14 days quarantine (except those that have recently returned from overseas). Application of the respective State and Territory direction in a judicious manner (perhaps JTF629 mission essential) will provide JTF629 some flexibility to deploy small groups of specialists to meet operational needs. However, I acknowledge the current Defence direction regarding inter-state travel and await your guidance on the way forward.
- d. Today I reviewed the draft JTF629 OSD for the entire force, including the JTGs and JFSG. The team have designed a joint OSD that provides the flexibility and capability

to flow forces into and out of the JTF as required. This will enable me to only retain the forces I need at any given time and handback to the services those forces no longer required. I have directed the staff to finalise the JTF629 OSD for submission to HQJOC no later than 050900LAPR20.

2. **JTG629.1 (NSW):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *The three major tasks of quarantine of air travellers, call tracing and Foodbank assistance continue to be conducted very effectively. NSW Police (NSWPOL) are very happy with the conduct of tasks and our support and the routine our joint NSWPOL / ADF teams have adopted. The forecasting of arriving international flights is proving difficult, particularly chartered flights. The reduced ROE at airports provides a small degree of flexibility to attend to other related compliance tasks. NSWPOL are satisfied with the quarantine arrangements for the Chilean Navy crews in hotels in the CBD, but the double booking of the hotels with the quarantined air travellers (who are not symptomatic) will require detailed liaison between the Fleet Command POC, Police Ops Command and JTG 629.1. The cruise ships offshore of Sydney are a significant concern for NSW leadership, however, no request for ADF support has been received by this JTG, nor has there been any liaison or planning for support.*
- b. **General Summary:** JTG629.1 has continued RSO&I for RAAF personnel at RAAF Williamtown with assistance of NSWPOL. The RAAF force elements (FE) will relieve the Army FE from 03 Apr 20. The arrival of MEAO MASS personnel has been de-conflicted and a Rehearsal of Concept drill undertaken between ADF and NSWPOL.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** The number of hotels being supported has increased to 16 however, this remains within JTG629.1 capacity (can support up to 20 hotels). JTG629.1 has commenced planning for the approved DACC 6 ports compliance task in anticipation of the force assignment of a FE. The pending task will require and additional FE of 100 personnel.

3. **JTG629.2 (VIC):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *ESF elements are commencing DACC tasks in support of the VICPOL OP SENTINEL (Quarantine Compliance). Scoping and DACC task preparation continues to provide an ADF Engr Advisor to support Vic Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in converting the Melbourne Exhibition Building into a health facility. We are scoping a possible expansion to the Contact Tracing Team, although this would be with general duties personnel not health staff. We are also working with HQ JTF to review potential use of UAV to support VICPOL in Quarantine Compliance operations. A first draft of the JTG629.2 OSD has been completed and submitted to HQ JTF. My priorities are support to State response, force protection and*

*preservation; effective mounting and preparation of personnel, and the development of the TG's form and function.*

- b. **General Summary:** The JTG629.1 LO at VIC DHHS is actively working on scoping ADF involvement in the conversion of the Melbourne Exhibition Building to a 600 bed emergency hospital. Lend Lease has been given the contract but VIC DHHS are looking to ADF in an engineering advisory role. We have now confirmed this requirement for one Army Engineer to join planning meetings in order to define an expanded support.
  - c. **Planning Team:** Meetings with CAOG and EMC determined there was more work to do in developing work flow to address multi agency ADF support requests. As JTG 629.2 embedded support numbers increase we have moved to a four Team model to support the JTG C2
  - d. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.1 provided five personnel to VICPOL AM 02 Apr 20 to conduct quarantine compliance monitoring. Personnel are employed in administrative roles.
4. **JTG629.3 (QLD):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *FA of FE from Army for task to protect remote indigenous communities is impacting ability to execute and has potential for adverse perception of ADF willingness to support. The continued support to international arrivals with current FE is being examined in detail, with a FA request to be submitted for review in the next 24 h, noting with current FE we are able to support MASS arrival tomorrow. Enduring tasks to support State and District Disaster Coordination Centres and Contract Tracing Team continues with no issues, noting potential request to expand locations/personnel is expected to be submitted by SDCC in the next 24-72 hours. The detailed CONOPS and FA for QLD border closure will be submitted to the JTF within the next 12-24 hours, noting that a formal request for assistance has not yet been submitted by the SDCC to EMA. KLE with Queensland Police Service (QPS) Commissioner and State Disaster Coordinator in reference to the potential border task has occurred this afternoon. Awaiting feedback on JTG OSD, with step to the Enoggera Mounting Facility occurring this evening to enable continuing operations tomorrow morning.*
  - b. **General Summary:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** Continuing to monitor local atmospherics and attendance of local government and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) meetings across Mt Isa, Cairns, Gympie, Townsville and Rockhampton. JTG629.3 is preparing for additional planners to deploy within next 24 h to support QPS planning to establish further enforced closure points on the southern QLD border.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** FE continue to support QPS at both Cairns and Brisbane International Airports and onwards movement of quarantined personnel to hotels. JTG629.1 continue to support QPS at the Pacific Hotel in Cairns and the Voco Hotel on the Gold Coast with quarantine compliance.

5. **JTG629.4 (SA):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *No change to JTG 629.4 (SA) planning support team activities or JTG posture to support future tasks. I assess SA continues to operate within State capacities. To date only one ADF member (yet to be FA to JTG 629.4) has been identified as being at risk of exposure to COVID-19 having been at the Adelaide airport within 48 h of the reported outbreak at that location. The member and his partner are in self-isolation as per SA Health requirements. I assess there is very low risk of impact upon our personnel or degradation to JTG capacity as a result of the virus cluster at the airport. I have written to all SA based ADF commanders and units requesting they initiate force preservation and preparation for possible FA to the JTG efforts for OP C19A, as members of team ADF SA. There remains a strong desire from the SA State Coordinator (SAPOL Commissioner) for ADF engagement and inclusion in their media stories to assist in assurance of civilian community, building on excellent ADF reputation following OP BA. My advice to SAPOL media that this is not permitted at this time remains in place. My short term priorities remain refinement of the JTG OSD for JTF consideration; determining and preparing for potential requests for ADF support; and FA requests to JTF HQ to build and sustain the JTG.*
- b. **General Summary:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.

6. **JTG629.5 (TAS):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *It is likely that additional restrictions on personal movement will be announced by the TAS Government this afternoon. SCC indicates that will not result in additional tasks for ADF at this stage. JTG 629.5 compliance checking teams commenced operations in support of Tasmanian Police (TASPOL) with SES and TAS Fire Service personnel this morning. Some media still and video taken but no interviews were granted. Media reporting in TAS (Hobart Mercury) referred to headline 'ADF enforcement of quarantine compliance'. That reporting is clearly incorrect and is not consistent with the TASPOL media release yesterday afternoon regarding the commencement of ADF support to TASPOL with compliance checking. Planning and contact tracing teams continue N/C. TAS Health report reduced ED attendance - that means capacity is still in excess of requirement with respect to COVID and BAU health issues.*
- b. **General Summary:** Quarantine compliance monitoring with TASPOL has commenced. JTG629.5 continue to scope the storage of high value medical supplies on Derwent Barracks.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.



- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.6 have as assisted TASPOL with quarantine compliance monitoring with ten personnel in Hobart, ten personnel in Launceston and ten personnel in Burnie.
- 7. **JTG629.6 (WA):**
  - a. *COMDs Comments: JTG support to OP C19A is progressing steadily and relationships with State Agencies are quickly developed through liaison officer network, in particular the Department of Premier and Cabinet. RAN / RAAF integration has occurred HQ JTG 629.6. JTG currently confirming the force assignment of JTG elements. Ongoing support to the West Australian Police (WAPOL) through the planning and conduct of vehicle check points and quarantine compliance checks is progressing well. No law enforcement activities are being conducted by JTG members.*
  - b. **General Summary:** The reinforcement of JTG 629.6 with RAN and RAAF personnel is ongoing. The priority of tasking for JTG 629.6 is supplementation of personnel to WAPOL vehicle monitoring points. Planning has commenced for Op DOORKNOCK, (WAPOL quarantine compliance monitoring). JTG629.6 support to Op DOORKNOCK is scheduled to commence on 06 Apr 20.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** Tasking for quarantine compliance monitoring is scheduled to commence on 06 Apr 20.
- 8. **JTG629.7 (NT):**
  - a. *COMDs Comments: Today I expect a further DACC request for planning, compliance check and Bio security checkpoint support to Northern Territory Police (NTPOL) in Alice Springs. I currently see Alice Springs as the area of most concern, given the growing number of incidents of non-compliance and escalating tensions, particularly with those people who cannot return to their communities because of biosecurity restrictions. Furthermore, NTPOL are concerned that the traditional means of law enforcement, such as fines and detention will be ineffective in maintaining the quarantine and social distancing laws. As such, I intend to relocate a C2 element (Unit CO) to Alice Springs within the next week to oversee all Task Elements south of Elliot.*
  - b. **General Summary:** JTG629.7 is working with NT Government health officials to coordinate the arrival of the first MASS flight under the new supervised isolation requirements. No later than COB 02 Apr 20, a contract with an appropriate hotel to facilitate the conduct of directed isolation will be confirmed. HQ JTG629.7 will continue to coordinate the directed isolation of all NT based ADF personnel arriving in Darwin from overseas locations. NTPOL are attempting enforce quarantine procedures in Alice Springs to limit the possibility of COVID-19 being transmitted to vulnerable communities. There are now NTPOL vehicle control points on all access roads in and out of the town. Anyone entering Alice Springs will be required to move into quarantine for a 14-day period before they are allowed to return to their remote community. This is a significant friction point for many locals who travel to Alice Springs to collect

essential supplies. It is expected that NTPOL will request support to their operations IVO Alice Springs within the next 24hrs.

- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.7 provided six personnel for the conduct of quarantine compliance monitoring with NT Government agencies.
9. **JTG629.8 (JFSG):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *The JFSG continues to provide support to directed JTG tasks with medical and general duty personnel. The one hundred personnel contribution to the JTG629.1 quarantine enforcement task is anticipated to conclude in the next 24 hours once relieved by a RAAF / RAN contingent. Support to contact tracing tasks continues in NT and TAS. The medical support being provided to the checkpoints on the NT border remain ongoing, and the JFSG is preparing to generate a similar contribution to NQLD checkpoints as required.*
  - b. **General Summary:** The JFSG has not commenced any additional tasks in the last 24 h. Preliminary planning has commenced to provide specialist augmentation into QLD Health departments, though these tasks are yet to be confirmed. The JFSG is standing by to support the establishment of quarantine inspection points in NQLD if required.
  - c. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - d. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Health Screening Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 010900Z Apr 20.
10. **JTG629.9 (ACT):** NSTR, first SITREP to be received on 03 Apr 20.

#### OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

11. Pending HQJOC FA of FE, it is anticipated that support to QPS operations to restrict access to indigenous communities will commence. Planning will also continue for support to NSW Port quarantine compliance monitoring.

#### CAPABILITY ISSUES

12. NSTR.

**PERSONNEL ISSUES****Personnel**

<b>JTG</b>	<b>TOTAL PERS</b>
HQ JTF629	72
JTG629.1	341
JTG629.2	49
JTG629.3	179
JTG629.4	55
JTG629.5	64
JTG629.6	140
JTG629.7	93
JTG629.8	208
JTG629.9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1201</b>

**COVID Infection Situation**

	<b>Number of Personnel</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	NIL	
<b>Self-Isolation</b>	NIL	
<b>Pending Test Result</b>	NIL	
<b>Recovered / Cleared</b>	NIL	

**Personnel Incident Reporting**

13. NSTR.

**WHS Reporting/Safety**

14. NSTR.

**LOGISITIC ISSUES**

15. NSTR

**RFIs**

16. NSTR.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

17. NSTR.

## JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY

JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY – CAA 02 0545Z APR 20				
JTG629.1 (NSW/ACT) – HQ Size: 15				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to NSW SEOC and ACT Health	22 Mar 20		15	NSW planners at State Emergency Operations Centre - Homebush
Support to NSW Health Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		20	At NSW Health Public Health Emergency Operation Centre – St Leonards
Support to NSW Foodbank			15	Packing food hampers for self-isolated personnel
Syd International Airport Quarantine Task	29 Mar 20		40	
Expansion of QCM – Navy contingent	01 Apr		100	
Quarantine Compliance Checks	29 Mar 20		163	Monitoring international arrivals in fifteen (15) Sydney hotels. Section sized teams accommodated at hotels. Rotation is currently run within the unit, rotating between hotels. No formal replacements at this time.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
QCM Task	TBC		700	ISO NSWPOL
Expansion of ESF – Army contingent	03 Apr		100	
Expansion of QCM – RAAF contingent	03 Apr		100 (TBC)	Current scoping and planning for up to 100 Airmen/women to support QCM
Support to Middle East Air Sustainment (Returning Flight) (FL: ASY013)	03 Apr		TBC	(FL #: ASY013)
JTG629.2 (VIC) – JTG HQ: 32				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
SCC/EMV LO Team	22 Mar 20		2	
Support to VIC DHHS Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		8	
SCC Planning Assistance Team	22 Mar 20		4	
SPOC Planning Team	22 Mar 20		2	
QCM Task	01 Apr 20		Nil	Conducting sedimentary duties ISO QCM (Phone contact to ensure QCM)
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Emergency Support Force Tranche 1	N/A		166	No identified task. Nil anticipated requirement to



				support Quarantine Compliance at this time. <sup>1</sup>
Emergency Support Force Tranche 2	N/A		176	
Scoping by JOSS-V for Mortuary Storage <sup>2</sup>	Not identified		TBC	Scoping for refrigerated storage of up to 1000 deceased pers.
<b>JTG629.3 (QLD) – JTG HQ: 83</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
LO in SDCC	22 Mar 20		2	
Regional Planning Teams	24 Mar 20		5	Located in Townsville, Cairns, Mt Isa, Gympie and Rockhampton
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		25	Brisbane and Cairns International Airport
Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		22	Cairns hotel and Gold Coast Hotel
Contact Tracing	24 Mar		5	Team reinserted – Restarted 31 Mar
Support to QPOL VCPs	01 Apr 20		TBC	REF: Corrected Copy – CJOPS TO 20/11 – ADF Spt to QLD Govt REF: FRAGO 2 HQ FORCOMD TO 1840-20 – 3 BDE Augment JTF629 w. 1x Coy. To be conduct IVO Cairns and Mt Isa (3BDE elmt). Spt request from defence will be support to VCP, logistic and comms. BPT expand to include Townsville, Rockhampton and Gympie districts.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to International Arrivals	03 Apr 20		27	Planned expansion to Cairns airport
Quarantine Compliance	03 Apr 20		100	RSO&I completed. Awaiting DACC request. Not anticipated at this stage
Support to Middle East Air Sustainment (Returning Flight) (FL: ASY013)	03 Apr 20		TBC	(FL #: ASY013)
<b>JTG629.4 (SA) – JTG HQ: 19</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Teams	22 Mar 20		10	ISO South Australia Health.

<sup>1</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 29 MAR 20 – Comd Comments: “at this time senior VICPOL leadership have confirmed that they do not require assistance with quarantine compliance through spotchecks and monitoring of gatherings.”

<sup>2</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 28 MAR 20



ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to Quarantine Compliance and Contract Tracing	N/A		50	'Call-for' complete. Capacity to support but unlikely, as authorities have sufficient organic staff.
Clerical and traffic flow pers	UNK		UNK	Awaiting JTG629.4 confirmation
<b>JTG629.5 (TAS) – JTG HQ: 10</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	ISO TAS Health
Contract Tracing Team	Not identified		24	ISO TAS Health
QCM Task	02 Apr 20		30 PAX (10 x Hobart, 10 x Launceston, 10 x Burnie)	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Secure storage for medical supplies and inventory management	ASAP		N/A	Awaiting
<b>JTG629.6 (WA) – JTG HQ: 47</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		1	ISO SHICC Health
Vasco De Gama cargo unload	28 Mar 20		Nil	
Contract Tracing	24 Mar 20		2	Potential expansion being scoped
Move COVID infected patients from Perth hospital to Perth hotel	02 0100Z Apr 20		Nil	Awaiting confirmation of task
Perth CBD closure of arterial roads and support to WAPOL	Fm 01 Apr		104	TASKORD 002-20
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Mortuary Overflow Storage	TBC		TBC	Currently being scoped. Irwin Barracks is a third option
<b>JTG629.7 (NT) – JTG HQ: 53</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	
Support to NT Border Checkpoints	23 Mar 20		35	Deployed to Kulgera, Timber Creek, Avon Downs
Contact Trace Team	24 Mar 20		4	Royal Darwin Hospital
Quarantine Compliance	31 Mar 20		6	IVO Darwin Township
Alice Springs LO Team	30 Mar 20		2	
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Resupply of dry goods and fresh produce to 'at risk' NT communities'.	TBC		TBC	Resupply West Daly region, West Arnhem and Roper Gulf. JTG working options with NT Government.
Support to Middle East Air Sustainment (Returning Flight) (FL: ASY013)	03 Apr		TBC	(FL #: ASY013)

JTG629.8 (JFSG) – JTG HQ: UNK				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	24 Mar 20		8	
Contact Tracing Team	24 Mar 20		24	
QCM Task	24 Mar 20		95	ATT to JTG629.1
JTG629.9 (ACT) – JTG HQ: 9				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		4	



Prepared by: J3 HQ JTF629  
Released by: COFS HQ JTF629





FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

# JTG 629.1 - Support to FoodBank NSW

Attachment 14

## Outline of Activity:

**Date:** 26 MAR 20 – present.

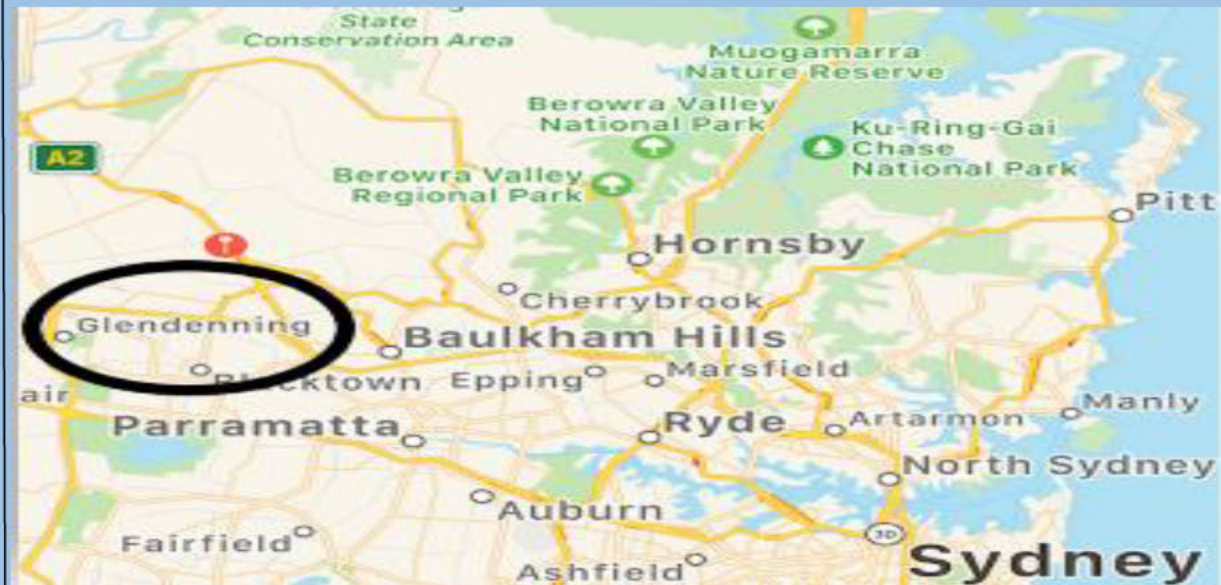
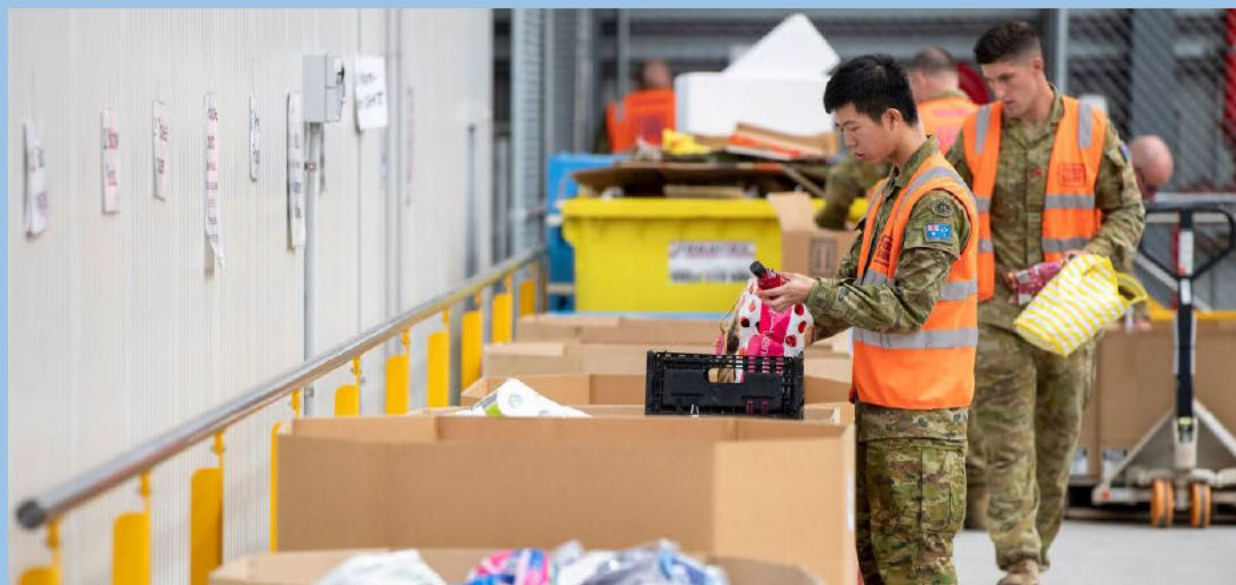
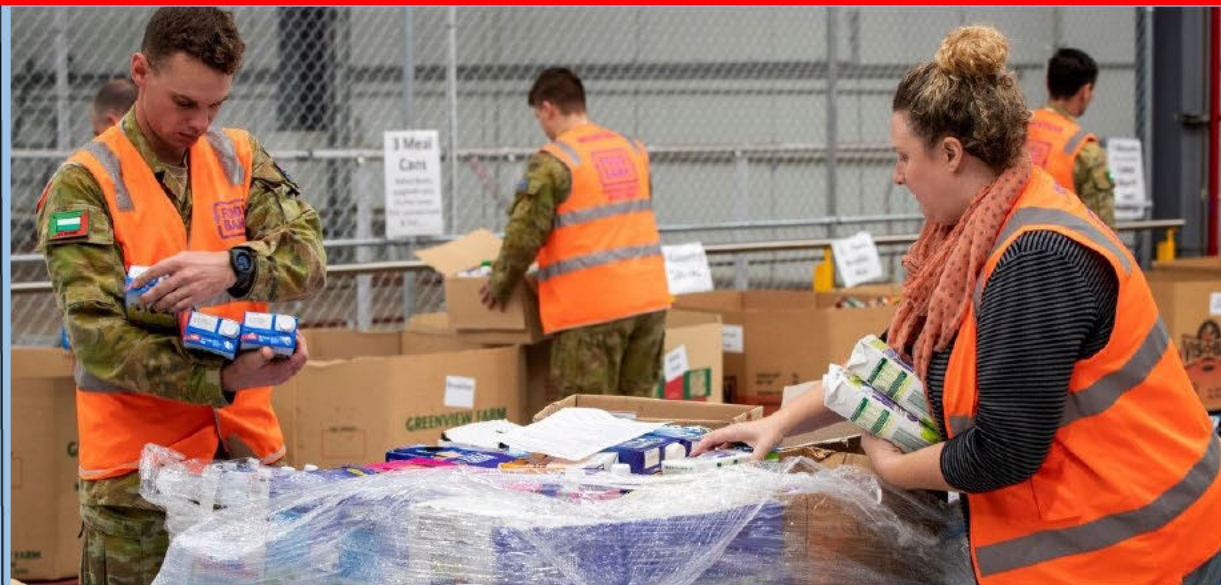
**Location:** Food Bank, Glendenning, NSW.

**Who is Involved:** 15 x ADF members of JTG629.1 are tasked to assist FoodBank in preparation of essential food hampers to go out to vulnerable community members who are in isolation due to age or at risk if exposed to COVID19.

**What Are They Doing:** The ADF members have built over 900 hampers, bagged 3200kg of potatoes and sent out over 80 x 500kg orders of food. The activities of JTG629.1 have enabled over 3000 vulnerable individuals to access food for 1-2 weeks. The task is ongoing and is anticipated to continue until Wednesday 08 April 20.

## Highlights:

- ADF personnel working alongside FoodBank volunteers.
- The JTG629.1 personnel have conducted themselves to a high standard, making a positive impression on the FoodBank staff. There have been comments that the JTG629.1 personnel complete the tasks in double quick time and are a pleasure to work with and always willing to help.
- ADF will sustain current activity with a focus on building individual weekly food hampers, making between 1000-2500/day.



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY





## JTF629 - SITREP

### JTF629 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJOC – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 020900Z APR 20 TO 030900Z APR 20

#### COMD COMMENTS

1. **COMD JTF629:**

- a. The planning and execution of the return of the MASS flight over the past 48 hours has been successful, and I am grateful for the support of the environmental commands and the coordination of JMU in executing this complicated activity. The State and Territory authorities are pleased that the ADF is adhering to their respective quarantine requirements for Australians returning from overseas.
- b. After a very busy few days, my sense in NSW is that things are starting to settle into a routine with Quarantine Compliance Monitoring (QCM). This task will continue to stretch NSWPOL, especially when numbers in quarantine hit an expected peak of 12,000 in the coming days. The addition of QMC at selected ports adds to the challenge. In this context, ADF support continues to be appreciated by NSWPOL.
- c. I continue to watch the developing situation in the NT and particularly in Alice Springs. While the deployment of the first of some 100 AFP Officers to the NT on Sunday 5 Apr 20 will add to NTPOL capabilities, we are seeing increased scoping of ADF support for Biosecurity Check Points and support to compliance checking in remote and regional areas of the NT. I will continue to report on developments.
- d. I note the growing impacts of COVID-19 in the Kimberley region. In addition to the medical staff who tested positive yesterday, a number of WAPOL Officers have also tested positive. This has meant that up to 33 WAPOL officers, who had contact with the infected officers, have been directed into self-isolation. The impacts of the reduced law enforcement posture in the Kimberley region will be carefully monitored.
- e. The joint nature of the structure of the Task Force is starting to take place. Formed bodies of Air Force and Navy Force Elements are now on task in NSW, with others being force generated in other States for likely and expected tasking. The HQ continues to add depth and capacity as the OSD is filled. I am very grateful for the support from the environmental commands in the personnel being assigned to the JTF.
- f. I signed the JTF629 OPORD this evening. Given the dynamic nature of the environment I expect the longevity of this order will be limited, but nonetheless it provides a necessary framework for JTF operations, confirms the tasks and authorities of JTF Commanders, highlights my key command themes, and details assurance requirements.

2. **JTG629.1 (NSW):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *We successfully received the MER MASS pers and they are now being managed in accordance with NSW Quarantine Compliance Management protocols under direct ADF supervision. The task of Quarantine Compliance Management of NSW commercial ports has now been received and assigned to the newly raised Task Unit 629.1.3, a request for a sub-unit minus FE (90 personnel) has been submitted to enable this task to commence operations from Tuesday, 07 Apr 20.*
- b. **General Summary:** The successful transfer of authority between RAAF and Army FE for the Sydney hotels quarantine compliance monitoring task occurred AM 03 Apr 20. JTG629.1 is now focussed on planning to spt New South Wales Police (NSWPOL\_ with quarantine compliance monitoring at major NSW Maritime Ports (Newcastle, Botany, Kembla and Eden).
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** Additional personnel will relieve the Maritime Operational Health Unit personnel who are currently undertaking Contract Tracing to ensure continuity of support to this tasking. Relieving personnel will RSO&I from AM 04 Apr 20
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.

3. **JTG629.2 (VIC):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *The JTG 629.2's support to VicPol's OP SENTINEL (QCM) is currently centred on six personnel from ESF 1 are undergoing induction training with VicPol for the QCM Task. This has been classed as 'on the job' training as their task is being conducted remotely via telephone. These personnel will adopt a rotation system to maintain capability until other elements are required. Their tasking is highly valued by VicPol and assists the targeted approach to QCM within the State. Further requests from VicPol to support QCM are developing, including support to the Police Assistance Line call centre. JTG 629.2 is anticipating a DACC request from VicPol for the provision of ADF support to enhance QCM in public areas during the Easter long weekend period. Although the potential exists to support this task, I have instructed my SCC and VicPol LO teams to confirm state capability and capacity, as well as any commercial options. We will review legal reputational implications as part of this scoping. JTG 629.2 has now assigned an Engr adviser team to assist DHHS in scoping the works for conversion of the Melbourne Convention Centre. We are also working to identify suitably qualified and experienced ADF health advisers to assist in this effort. I assess this as a key task and will most likely be enduring, further reinforcing the ADF linkages with DHHS as the mission transitions through the phases of the pandemic.*
- b. **General Summary:** Planning is continuing for potential ADF support for the conversion of the Melbourne Exhibition Centre into a 600 bed hospital. JTG629.2 have allocated a Royal Australian Engineer Army Officer (O5) to advise, assist and assess in conjunction with Emergency Management VIC (EMV).



- c. **Planning Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- 4. **JTG629.3 (QLD):**
  - a. **COMDs Comments:** *Task protecting remote indigenous communities has commenced. The continued support to international arrivals with current FE is being examined in detail, with a FA request submitted for review in the next 12hrs. With current FE we are able to support MASS arrival today. Enduring tasks to support State and District Disaster Coordination Centres and Contract Tracing Team continues with no issues, noting potential request to expand locations/personnel is expected to be submitted by SDCC in the next 24-48 hours. The detailed CONOPS and FA for QLD border closure will be submitted to the JTF within the next 12 hours. Awaiting feedback on JTG OSD, with step up to the Enoggera Mounting Facility executed overnight.*
  - b. **General Summary:** JTG629.3 continue to conduct airport reception and quarantine compliance monitoring. Two additional planners have been dispatched to the QLD District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) to assist in planning future border closure tasks. Support to Queensland Police Service (QPS) access control point tasks in Far North and Western QLD have commenced.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** Two further planners have deployed to support (QPS) across QLD/NSW border at Warwick and the Gold Coast. A further planner has now been attached to the QPS Operational Command Centre.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- 5. **JTG629.4 (SA):**
  - a. **COMDs Comments:** *No change to JTG 629.4 (SA) planning support team activities or JTG posture to support future tasks. I assess SA continues to operate within State capacities. There remains a strong desire from the SA State Coordinator (SAPOL Commissioner) for ADF engagement and inclusion in their media stories to assist in assurance of civilian community, building on excellent ADF reputation following OP BA. My advice to SAPOL media that this is not permitted at this time remains in place. My short term priorities remain refinement of the JTG OSD for JTF consideration; determining and preparing for potential requests for ADF support; and FA requests to JTF HQ to build and sustain the JTG.*
  - b. **General Summary:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - c. **Planning Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.

- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- 6. **JTG629.5 (TAS):**
  - a. ***COMDs Comments:** SCC reports that Agencies are using a slight lull in activity to review and consolidate today and over the weekend. Cool, rainy weather will assist with maintaining movement restrictions over that period. Sentinel testing in Devonport will reveal whether community transmission has occurred but that will not be known for another week. Tasmanian Government requests for assistance remain small and well within capacity of the JTG. Very positive feedback being received from the Commissioner and public regarding the commencement of compliance checking support to TASPOL by ADF pers and regarding the work being done by the teams working with the Dept of Health on contact tracing.*
  - b. **General Summary:** Quarantine compliance monitoring continued in three distinct regions – North West (Devonport-Burnie region), North (greater Launceston region) and South (Hobart region). The request to provide storage of high value medical supplies on Derwent Barracks has been approved.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- 7. **JTG629.6 (WA):**
  - a. ***COMDs Comments:** JTG 629.6 tasking ISO WAPOL vehicle access control points is progressing well. Feedback from West Australian Police (WAPOL) Acting Commander Metro Region is that the ADF personnel are operating in a professional manner and proving to be a significant asset to WAPOL. A request for additional manning at existing checkpoints will be raised to increase our footprint around Perth. The amended script for ADF personnel on control points has been implemented from 03 Apr 20. Ongoing planning support to WAPOL compliance checks and scheduled to commence operations 06 Apr 20.*
  - b. **General Summary:** Priority of support remains to supporting the WAPOL vehicle access control points. Planning continues for Op DOORKNOCK (WAPOL Quarantine Compliance Monitoring). JTG629.1 support to Op DOORKNOCK is scheduled to commence 06 Apr 20.
  - c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
  - e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** Tasking will commence from 06 Apr 20.

8. **JTG629.7 (NT):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *In response to the cluster of positive COVID-19 cases identified in the Kimberley region (including WA Health and Police personnel), NTPOL have increased border control along the WA border with two additional control points on the Tanami and Buntine roads. It is likely Northern Territory Police (NTPOL) will request additional ADF support in the form of general duties personnel, communication, and logistic support to a growing number of biosecurity checkpoints (BCP) across the NT in the coming days. In response to the concerns I previously raised about Alice Springs, I will deploy an O5 Headquarters to the Southern Region in order to co-ordinate planning and C2, within the next 48 hours.*
- b. **General Summary:** JTG 629.7 coordinated the arrival of the first MASS flight under the new supervised isolation requirements in the NT. In total 52 ADF personnel have commenced their supervised isolation in approved hotels within Darwin. HQ JTG629.7 will continue to coordinate the directed isolation of all NT based ADF personnel arriving in Darwin from overseas and interstate.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** JTG629.7 provided seven personnel for the conduct of quarantine compliance monitoring with NT Government agencies within the Darwin area.

9. **JTG629.8 (JFSG):**

- a. **COMDs Comments:** *JTG629.8 has not received any additional tasks in the last 24 hours. The JFSG is contributing to deliberate planning serials with each of the JTGs to determine requirements for specialist logistics and health effects in support of own force deployments or to service State / Territory initiated requests. The 100 person group currently supporting quarantine compliance in Sydney will rotate this evening, which will see the JFSG contribution to this task returned to parent units and demounted. The JFSG has now established a Liaison Officer in Cairns to support JTG629.3B and will continue to scope support requirement for emerging tasks in the North Queensland area as remote community protection requirements develop.*
- b. **General Summary:** The JFSG is continuing to support regional JTG-led tasks with staff augmentation or health support. Based on the current focus areas of the JTGs, the JFSG tempo is expected to increase as requirements expand at remote access points on NT and QLD border crossings; as the support to remote community tasks increase; and, as the situation at NSW port locations develop. Additionally, the JFSG is following a likely requirement to provide environmental health specialists to support JTG629.7 planning for the management of human remains in remote NT locations. Two personnel currently providing logistic support to the Emergency Coordination Centre in TAS, including logistic and inventory management planning.
- c. **Contact Tracing Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.

- d. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
- e. **Health Screening Team:** No change from JTF629 SITREP CAA 020900Z Apr 20.
10. **JTG629.9 (ACT):**
- a. **COMDs Comments:** *The main effort remains action to stand-up JTG 629.9, specifically approval of the OSD, gaining accommodation and maintaining our liaison with key partners. The JTG continues to support the extant DACC task and we are influencing our ACT partners to ensure future DACC tasks are well scoped and in line with CJTF 629 intent. The JTG is engaging widely within the ACT Defence community to seek support for HQ staff, ESF manning, and facilities. We are preparing to make use of all the various SERCATs available to us to provide a JTG able to scale as much as possible. I seek consideration for early force assignment of the AFG to the TG OIT enable a second ESF in the ACT to prepare (but remaining in current location). JTG 629.9 would therefore manage ESF as a combination Extant/Call-for and NTM organisation, with supplementation from wider ADF for specific (and/or) specialist DACC tasks.*
- b. **General Summary:** JTG 629.9 HQ is awaiting approval of the OSD and continues to conduct force generation activities. There are currently LOs at the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and ACT Health Protection Service (HPS) and ongoing liaison with JOSS ACT and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). There is one extant DACC task for contact tracing. Current expected task completion is 30 Apr 20, at which point ANU students and nurses will have been trained to assume duties.
- c. **Recon Planning Team:** Planners remain embedded with ACT Health.
- d. **Contact Tracing Team:** JTG629.9 continues to support ACT HPS with contact tracing.
- e. **Quarantine Compliance Monitoring:** No request for quarantine compliance monitoring has been received from the ACT Government.

### OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS

11. No significant change to current operations. Planning will also continue for support to NSW Port quarantine compliance monitoring.

### CAPABILITY ISSUES

12. NSTR.

### PERSONNEL ISSUES

#### Personnel

JTG	TOTAL PERS
HQ JTF629	77
JTG629.1	322
JTG629.2	55



JTG629.3	224
JTG629.4	58
JTG629.5	40
JTG629.6	142
JTG629.7	93
JTG629.8	193
JTG629.9	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1238</b>

**COVID Infection Situation**

	<b>Number of Personnel</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	NIL	
<b>Self-Isolation</b>	NIL	
<b>Pending Test Result</b>	NIL	
<b>Recovered / Cleared</b>	NIL	

**Personnel Incident Reporting**

13. NSTR.

**WHS Reporting/Safety**

14. NSTR.

**LOGISITIC ISSUES**

15. NSTR

**RFIs**

16. NSTR.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

17. NSTR.

**JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY**

18. **Storyboards:**

- a. JTG629.1: [Support to Foodbank](#)
- b. JTG629.6: [WA State Control Zone Management](#)



JTF 629 TASK SUMMARY – CAA 03 0435Z APR 20				
JTG629.1 (NSW/ACT) – HQ Size: 20				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Support to NSW SEOC and ACT Health	22 Mar 20		4	NSW planners at State Emergency Operations Centre - Homebush
Support to NSW Health Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		51	At NSW Health Public Health Emergency Operation Centre – St Leonards
Support to NSW Foodbank			15	Packing food hampers for self-isolated personnel
Syd International Airport Quarantine Task	29 Mar 20		12	
Expansion of QCM – Navy contingent	01 Apr		100	
Quarantine Compliance Checks	29 Mar 20		252	Monitoring international arrivals in fifteen (15) Sydney hotels. Section sized teams accommodated at hotels. Rotation is currently run within the unit, rotating between hotels. No formal replacements at this time.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
QCM Task	TBC		700	ISO NSWPOL
Quarantine Compliance Management – Major Ports KEMBLA, EDEN, BOTANY, NEWCASTLE	04 Apr 20		TBC	CJOPS TO 20/225 – ADF Spt to NSWPF with Port QCM JTF629 to provide 120 pers to spt tasks at key ports CA, CN, CAF requested to spt with FA of pers
Expansion of ESF – Army contingent	04 Apr		100	
Expansion of QCM – RAAF contingent	04 Apr		100 (TBC)	Current scoping and planning for up to 100 Airmen/women to support QCM
JTG629.2 (VIC) – JTG HQ: 32				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
SCC/EMV LO Team	22 Mar 20		2	
Support to VIC DHHS Contact Tracing	22 Mar 20		4	
SCC Planning Assistance Team	22 Mar 20		5	
SPOC Planning Team	22 Mar 20		2	
QCM Task	01 Apr 20		Nil	Conducting sedimentary duties ISO QCM (Phone contact to ensure QCM)
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Emergency Support Force Tranche 1	N/A		166	No identified task. Nil anticipated requirement to

				support Quarantine Compliance at this time. <sup>1</sup>
Emergency Support Force Tranche 2	N/A		176	
Scoping by JOSS-V for Mortuary Storage <sup>2</sup>	Not identified		TBC	Scoping for refrigerated storage of up to 1000 deceased pers.
<b>JTG629.3 (QLD) – JTG HQ: 83</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
LO in SDCC	22 Mar 20		2	
Regional Planning Teams	24 Mar 20		9	Located in Townsville, Cairns, Mt Isa, Gympie and Rockhampton
Support to International Arrivals	29 Mar 20		25	Brisbane and Cairns International Airport
Quarantine Compliance	29 Mar 20		35	Cairns hotel and Gold Coast Hotel
Contact Tracing	24 Mar		5	Team reinserted – Restarted 31 Mar
Support to QPOL VCPs	01 Apr 20		30	REF: Corrected Copy – CJOPS TO 20/11 – ADF Spt to QLD Govt REF: FRAGO 2 HQ FORCOMD TO 1840-20 – 3 BDE Augment JTF629 w. 1x Coy.  To be conduct IVO Cairns and Mt Isa (3BDE elmt). Spt request from defence will be support to VCP, logistic and comms. BPT expand to include Townsville, Rockhampton and Gympie districts.
Spt to ADF RTA members	03 Apr 20		TBC	Provide direct support to all members RTA during their period  of quarantine in Brisbane, including administration, welfare and incident response to  members isolated in hotels within Brisbane.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS

<sup>1</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 29 MAR 20 – Comd Comments: “at this time senior VICPOL leadership have confirmed that they do not require assistance with quarantine compliance through spotchecks and monitoring of gatherings.”

<sup>2</sup> JTG 629.2 Daily SITREP 28 MAR 20

Support to International Arrivals	04 Apr 20		27	Planned expansion to Cairns airport
Quarantine Compliance	04 Apr 20		100	RSO&I completed. Awaiting DACC request. Not anticipated at this stage
<b>JTG629.4 (SA) – JTG HQ: 19</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Teams	22 Mar 20		10	ISO South Australia Health.
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Support to Quarantine Compliance and Contract Tracing	N/A		50	'Call-for' complete. Capacity to support but unlikely, as authorities have sufficient organic staff.
Clerical and traffic flow pers	UNK		UNK	Awaiting JTG629.4 confirmation
<b>JTG629.5 (TAS) – JTG HQ: 10</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		2	ISO TAS Health
Contract Tracing Team	Not identified		24	ISO TAS Health
QCM Task	02 Apr 20		30 PAX (10 x Hobart, 10 x Launceston, 10 x Burnie)	
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Secure storage for medical supplies and inventory management	ASAP		N/A	Awaiting
<b>JTG629.6 (WA) – JTG HQ: 47</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		10	ISO SHICC Health
Vasco De Gama cargo unload	28 Mar 20		0	
Contract Tracing	24 Mar 20		2	Potential expansion being scoped
Move COVID infected patients from Perth hospital to Perth hotel	02 0100Z Apr 20		0	Awaiting confirmation of task
Perth CBD closure of arterial roads and support to WAPOL	Fm 01 Apr		104	TASKORD 002-20
<b>ANTICIPATED TASKS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Mortuary Overflow Storage	TBC		TBC	Currently being scoped. Irwin Barracks is a third option
<b>JTG629.7 (NT) – JTG HQ: 53</b>				
<b>CURRENT TASKS</b>	<b>TASK COMMENCED</b>	<b>TASK STATUS</b>	<b>NO OF PERS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		3	
Support to NT Border Checkpoints	23 Mar 20		35	Deployed to Kulgera, Timber Creek, Avon Downs
Contact Trace Team	24 Mar 20		4	Royal Darwin Hospital
Quarantine Compliance	31 Mar 20		7	IVO Darwin Township
Alice Springs LO Team	30 Mar 20		2	



Spt to ADF RTA members	03 Apr 20		TBC	Provide direct support to all members RTA during their period of quarantine in Darwin, including administration, welfare and incident response to members isolated in hotels within Darwin.
ANTICIPATED TASKS	POSSIBLE COMMENCE DATE	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Resupply of dry goods and fresh produce to 'at risk' NT communities'.	TBC		TBC	Resupply West Daly region, West Arnhem and Roper Gulf. JTG working options with NT Government.
<b>JTG629.8 (JFSG) – JTG HQ: 52</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	24 Mar 20		8	
Contact Tracing Team	24 Mar 20		14	
QCM Task	24 Mar 20		105	ATT to JTG629.1
<b>JTG629.9 (ACT) – JTG HQ: 9</b>				
CURRENT TASKS	TASK COMMENCED	TASK STATUS	NO OF PERS	COMMENTS
Planning Support Team	22 Mar 20		4	
Contact Tracing Team	TBC		12	

ACTIVE

HIGHLY LIKELY

SCOPING BY STATE AGENCY

COMPLETED

Prepared by: J3 HQ JTF629  
Released by: COFS HQ JTF629

**From:** Burr, Matthew BRIG <[matthew.burr@defence.gov.au](mailto:matthew.burr@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 12 April 2020 2:38 PM

**To:** Kenny, Paul MAJGEN 2 <[paul.kenny2@defence.gov.au](mailto:paul.kenny2@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Victorian State of Emergency extended [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

## UNCLASSIFIED

Sir, as discussed and detailed in JTG 629.2's SITREP today - The Premier announced an extension of the current State of Emergency for a further 4 weeks (until 11 May 20) which also extends the control measures as detailed in the Victorian Chief Health Officer directions. At the same time the Victorian Premier also stated that the current State of Emergency "may well continue beyond" the current date announced.

Further to the SITREP. Victoria's response to COVID-19 continues to be led by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) appointed the Control Agency under the State's Emergency Management framework. VICPOL are a supporting agency to DHHS, whilst still maintaining VICPOL's standing coordination responsibilities under the same Emergency Management framework. On the 3 Apr 20 the Premier established a Crisis Council of Cabinet (CCC) as "*the core decision making forum for the Victorian Government on all matters related to the coronavirus emergency, including implementing the outcomes of the National Cabinet.*" The CCC will operate initially until 30 September 2020 and will then be reviewed. Chaired by the Premier and includes 7 key ministers. Notably, the current Victorian Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Minister Lisa Neville) is one of the CCC's ministers, however she is included as part of her second ministerial appointment as the Minister for the Coordination of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. These announcements reaffirm Victoria's focus on health with regards to its response to COVID19 with DHHS (as the Control Agency) responsible for management and execution of the State's response (under the lead of EMV). VICPOL remain in support and current QCM activities remain within VICPOL's capabilities and capacity. JTG 629.2 continues to be tightly linked to EMV, DHHS and VICPOL's planning for current and future COVID19 responses.

Regards

**Brigadier Matt Burr**

Commander JTG629.2

MACLEOD | VIC | 3085

M: +61 [REDACTED] | E: [matthew.burr@defence.gov.au](mailto:matthew.burr@defence.gov.au)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.





## JTF629 - SITREP

### JTG629.2 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJTF629 – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 160300Z APR 20 TO 170300Z APR 20

#### COMD COMMENTS

1. Today Comd JTG 629.2 visited the Police Advice Line (PAL) at Ballarat with the Platoon Commander of the supporting ESF elements. He is meeting with the key PAL staff and members of the ADF support team. Initial feedback is very positive and clearly highlights the amplifying effects that this small team is achieving. It is anticipated that this task will continue into the foreseeable future. Further assessments will be forwarded SEPCOR following completion of the engagement.
2. The State of Victoria's ability to accept returning Australians from overseas is nearing planned capacity of ~4000 people. Despite this there are presently no indicators that ADF assistance will be requested in the near term. I will keep a close watch on this space.

#### INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

3. **Incidents:** Nil

#### FRIENDLY SITUATION

4. **SCC/EMV.** EMV remains at Tier 2 with DHHS appointed the Control Agency.
5. **COVID-19 State Emergency Management.** Stage Three (3) restrictions (announced on 30 Mar 20) remain in force. The State of Emergency in Victoria has been extended until 11 May 20 to give the Victorian Government the powers it needs to keep slowing the spread of coronavirus. Emergency Management Victoria's (EMV) current focus is now the management and monitoring of quarantined repatriated personnel in hotels. Planning within the EMV is now beginning to dedicate effort to monitoring and sourcing PPE for the Health sector and establishing the framework to support distribution. Full and updated details are available at the DHHS Victoria website [here](#).

#### DACC TASKS/OPERATIONS LAST 24 HOURS

TOTAL TASKS	TASKS ONGOING	TASKS COMPLETE	TASKS PAUSED	TASKS SCOPING	TASKS CANCELLED
6	5	1	1	1	0

6. **General Summary:** NSTR.

7. **Current COVID-19 statistics:**

Date	Victoria	Last	Current
Total COVID-19 Cases		1298	1302
Status	Recovered	1153	1159
	Home Isolation	74	95
	Admitted to Hospital (non ICU)	19	19
	Admitted to Hospital (ICU)	17	13
	Deceased	14	14
	Not Contactable	2	2
	Not Stated	0	0
Hospitalised during Illness		169	165
Sex	Female	622	623
	Male	676	679
	Unknown	0	0
Indigenous Statistics	Indigenous	5	5
	Non-indigenous	1224	1229
	Unknown	69	68
Health Care Worker cases		157	156
Cases with unknown Source		133	136
No of tests completed T-2 days (15 Apr)		1103	2749
Culmative Test completed (since 01 Jan 20)		73000	75000

8. **Deployed FE Summary.**a. ***SCC LOs:***

- (1) SCC is continuing its focus on the progression of the Interagency Response Coordination System (IRCS) and the development of the first draft of mortuary affairs modelling.

b. ***SCC Planning Teams (Embeds):***

- (1) On 16 Apr 20 SCC Planning teams conducted a site visit at the proposed CBD Ambulance HUB IVO Albert Park. The proposal of this site is to facilitate crew welfare, decontamination, restock & re-supply of Vic Ambulance crews.
- (2) SCC Planning teams will be conducting a scoping workshop, to continue with the Victorian Mortuary Affairs preparedness and planning task.

c. ***VicPol LO.***

- (1) NSTR

d. ***DHHS Contact Tracing Team (CTT).***

- (1) Planning support to OP SOTERIA working group for creation of health and wellbeing plan.

- e. ***Emergency Support Force #1 (ESF 1 – 8/7 RVR).***
  - (1) ***Op SENTINEL.*** Operational pause on task, conducting refit to fight and developing COVID-19 TTPs and training. Sect on 24h NTM to recommence task if required.
  - (2) ***Police Assistance Line.*** 309 COVID-19 triage cases were cleared in the last 24h by ESF members.

### **DACC TASK/OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS**

- 9. **Deployed FE Summary.**
  - a. ***SCC LO's:***
    - (1) Confirm Victoria's current travel restrictions/limitations WRT ADF exemptions.
    - (2) Progress IRCS - focus is mortuary affairs example.
    - (3) Complete instructions on how IRCS will coordinate agencies in a response including an assessment of gaps and overlaps in existing plans.
  - b. ***SCC Planning Teams (Embeds):***
    - (1) Reviewing details of State Relief Plan ISO multi-department taskforce on likely hybrid options.
    - (2) Attending the SCC State Relief and Recovery Team meeting for insights on State Relief Planning.
    - (3) Attending further scoping workshop for Victorian Mortuary Affairs ISO Preparedness and Planning.
  - c. ***VicPol LO.***
    - (1) Reviewing further potential options for DACC support to VicPol in the short term.
  - d. ***DHHS Contact Tracing Team (CTT).***
    - (1) Nil Change.
  - e. ***Emergency Support Force #1 (ESF 1 – 8/7 RVR)***
    - (1) ***QCM – Op SENTINEL.*** Operational Pause.
    - (2) ***QCM – PAL.*** Nil Change.

### **CAPABILITY ISSUES**



10. N/C to ICT conference facilities request. Waiting for contract provider response.

### PERSONNEL ISSUES

11. **Personnel:** At 16 1600L APR 20.

Element	SERCAT 5	SERCAT 7	SERVOP C	APS	Total Posted Strength
JTG HQ	32	8	0	5	45
SCC LO Team	5	2	0	0	7
VicPol LO	1	0	0	0	1
SCC Planning Team	5	2	0	0	7
Contact Tracing Team	8	0	0	0	8
ESF	6	0	0	0	6
QCM	8	0	8	0	8
Other FE	0	0	0	0	0
					82

12. Pers COVID-19 Training as follows:
- a. P126718 ADF COVID 19 AWARENESS : 627
  - b. P126720 COVID 19 ADF GENERAL DUTIES : 527
  - c. Remote RSO&I webinar attendees: 201
  - d. RSO&I Remote Mounting Webinar packages to continue on a weekly schedule.
13. EMV004CV Request for Australian Government non-financial assistance – DHHS request to re-assign ADF personnel more details to follow.

### REPORTING

14. **Incident Reporting.** Nil.
15. **WHS Reporting/Safety.** Nil.

### LOGISTIC ISSUES

16. LNIDS Demand TOSI-BNF8S4 raised and sent to JTF629 for movement of 3 x Red Cross owned pallets of face masks from East Sale to Melbourne.

### RFIs

17. RFI's are maintained via the OP COVID -19 RFI register [here](#)

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

18. **KLE.** COMD JTG629.2 conducting site visit of deployed FE at the Police Advice Line (PAL) Ballarat. There will be meetings with key PAL management. CHATREP will be sent SEPCOR.

**Drafted By:** S33 (B) JTG 629.2, CAPT [REDACTED]

**Released By:** COS JTG 629.2, LTCOL [REDACTED]





# JTF629 - SITREP

## JTG629.2 – DAILY SITREP TO HQJTF629 – OP COVID-19 ASSIST

SITREP COVERING PERIOD: 170300Z APR 20 TO 180300Z APR 20

### COMD COMMENTS

1. Victoria still continues to maintain sufficient State health capacity to meet the current response to COVID19. This has provided the State apparatus some breathing space as it continues to respond to the pandemic. Importantly, this has triggered consideration led by Department of Human and Health Services and Department of Premier and Cabinet to review pre-conditions to relax COVID-19 restrictions with-in Victoria. Finding the right balance between increasing health response capacity, managing social distancing, and enabling economic stimulus remains a critical area of consideration for the State. This marks an important point in gaining the initiative to now allow greater influence on how the State responds in order to achieve optimum outcomes. How well the 'levers' of response can be handled may allow an opportunity to influence when the State enters and exits "Stage 3 peak action". The HQ is working closely with SCC/EMV to understand the States approach, and consider potential implications on future DACC requests.

2. HQ JTG 629.2 continues to confirm personnel against the OSD with an intent to exploit tri-service capabilities within Victoria.

### INCIDENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

3. **Incidents:** Nil

### FRIENDLY SITUATION

4. **SCC/EMV.** EMV remains at Tier 2 with DHHS appointed the Control Agency.

5. COVID-19 State Emergency Management. Stage Three (3) restrictions (announced on 30 Mar 20) remain in force. The State of Emergency in Victoria has been extended until 11 May 20 to give the Victorian Government the powers it needs to keep slowing the spread of coronavirus. Emergency Management Victoria's (EMV) current focus is now the management and monitoring of quarantined repatriated personnel in hotels. Planning within the EMV is now beginning to dedicate effort to monitoring and sourcing PPE for the Health sector and establishing the framework to support distribution. Full and updated details are available at the DHHS Victoria website [here](#).

### DACC TASKS/OPERATIONS LAST 24 HOURS

TOTAL TASKS	TASKS ONGOING	TASKS COMPLETE	TASKS PAUSED	TASKS SCOPING	TASKS CANCELLED
6	5	1	1	1	0

6. **General Summary:** NSTR.

7. **Current COVID-19 statistics:** As at 180900Apr20.

Date 18 Apr 20	Victoria	Last	Current	Change	Change %
Total COVID-19 Cases		1302	1319	17	1%
Status	Recovered	1159	1172	13	1%
	Home Isolation	95	100	5	5%
	Admitted to Hospital (non ICU)	19	18	-1	-5%
	Admitted to Hospital (ICU)	13	12	-1	-8%
	Deceased	14	14	0	0%
	Not Contactable	2	2	0	0%
	Not Stated	0	1	1	#DIV/0!
Hospitalised during Illness		165	168	3	2%
Sex	Female	623	636	13	2%
	Male	679	683	4	1%
	Unknown	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Indigenous Statistics	Indigenous	5	3	-2	-40%
	Non-indigenous	1229	1244	15	1%
	Unknown	68	72	4	6%
Health Care Worker cases		156	159	3	2%
Cases with unknown Source		136	136	0	0%
No of tests completed T-2 days (16 Apr)		2749	1251	-1498	-54%
Culmative Test completed (since 01 Jan 20)		75000	79000	4000	5%
Age	0-4 years	12	12	0	0%
	5-14 years	9	9	0	0%
	15-44 years	594	599	5	1%
	45-64 years	448	457	9	2%
	65-79 years	205	207	2	1%
	80+ years	34	35	1	3%

8. **Deployed FE Summary.**a. **SCC LOs:**

- (1) Elements from the LO team have been assisting DHHS with the planning and management of Op SOTERIA. Current figures from Op SOTERIA are as follows:

- (a) Persons in quarantine: 3872
- (b) Scheduled exits next seven (7) days: 1456

- (2) Op SOTERIA continues to be the main focus of DHHS with the continuation of flights expected to arrive up to 22 Apr 20.

b. **SCC Planning Teams (Embeds):**

- (1) SCC Planning teams continued their review of the proposed CBD Ambulance Hub and continued supporting with multi-department input into the co-ordinated State Relief Plan.
- c. ***VicPol LO.***
- (1) Discussion with PAL Management and JOSS-V regarding extension to MOU for ADF support to PAL and QCM tasks.
- d. ***DHHS Contact Tracing Team (CTT).***
- (1) Ongoing planning support to OP SOTERIA working group for creation of health and wellbeing plan for quarantined hotel residents.
  - (2) Management of the CTT has been assigned to KPMG, LO's within the CTT have commenced liaison with KPMG A/Director regarding CTT management and ADF support.
- e. ***Emergency Support Force #1 (ESF 1 – 8/7 RVR).***
- (1) ***Op SENTINEL.*** Operational pause on task, conducting refit to fight and developing COVID-19 TTPs and training. Sect on 24h NTM to recommence task if required.
  - (2) ***Police Assistance Line.*** 289 triage cases were cleared in the last 24h by ESF members.

#### **DACC TASK/OPERATIONS NEXT 24 HOURS**

9. **Deployed FE Summary.**
- a. ***SCC LO's:***
- (1) Still seeking confirmation from DHHS for Victoria's current travel restrictions/limitations WRT ADF exemptions.
  - (2) Complete instructions on how IRCS will coordinate agencies in a response including an assessment of gaps and overlaps in existing plans.
- b. ***SCC Planning Teams (Embeds):***
- (1) Nil Change.
- c. ***VicPol LO.***
- (1) Reviewing further potential options for DACC support to VicPol in the short term.
- d. ***DHHS Contact Tracing Team (CTT).***
- (1) Support finalisation of Victorian Crisis Cabinet Submission for pre-conditions to relax COVID-19 restrictions.



e. **Emergency Support Force #1 (ESF 1 – 8/7 RVR)**(1) **QCM – Op SENTINEL.** Operational Pause.(2) **QCM – PAL.** Nil Change.**CAPABILITY ISSUES**

10. N/C to ICT conference facilities request. Waiting for contract provider response.

**PERSONNEL ISSUES**11. **Personnel:** At 16 1700L APR 20.

Element	SERCAT 5	SERCAT 7	SERVOP C	APS	Total Posted Strength
JTG HQ	32	8	0	5	45
SCC LO Team	3	2	0	0	5
VicPol LO	1	0	0	0	1
SCC Planning Team	4	3	1	0	8
Contact Tracing Team	9	0	0	0	8
ESF	6	0	0	0	6
QCM	0	0	0	0	0
Other FE	0	0	0	0	0
					73

12. Pers COVID-19 Training as follows:

a. P126718 ADF COVID 19 AWARENESS : 627

b. P126720 COVID 19 ADF GENERAL DUTIES : 527

c. Remote RSO&amp;I webinar attendees: 201

d. RSO&amp;I Remote Mounting Webinar packages to continue on a weekly schedule.

13. EMV004CV Request for Australian Government non-financial assistance – DHHS request to re-assign ADF personnel, further details SEPCOR.

**REPORTING**14. **Incident Reporting.** Nil.15. **WHS Reporting/Safety.** Nil.

**LOGISTIC ISSUES**

16. NSTR.

**RFIs**

17. RFI's are maintained via the OP COVID -19 RFI register [here](#)

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

18. JTG629 PAO has been had the following engagements:

a. Approached by VicPol to do a media piece on ADF support to Op SENTINEL and PAL, for release in a VicPol publication in July.

19. **KLE.** COMD JTG629.2 conducted site visit of deployed FE at the Police Advice Line (PAL) Ballarat 17 Apr 20. Engagement with key PAL management. CHATREP to be sent SEPCOR.

**Drafted By:** S33 (B) JTG 629.2, CAPT [REDACTED]

**Released By:** COS JTG 629.2, LTCOL [REDACTED]



**From:** Chris Eccles (DPC) <[chris.eccles@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:chris.eccles@dpc.vic.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 June 2020 8:15 AM  
**To:** Gaetjens, Phil <[Phil.Gaetjens@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Phil.Gaetjens@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: ADF support

Phil

As per my recent text, the Premier and Prime Minister discussed last night the support that might be provided by the ADF in relation to the current outbreaks in Victoria.

The categories of requested support follow.

### **Operational coordination and planning support**

The State Control Centre and other emergency management arrangements are fully engaged in coordination, operations and logistics, including through whole of government coordination and engagement with other agencies such as the ADF. The mission will involve targeted deployment of DHHS operational capabilities in each region, VicPol capacity (in particular to support enforcement and compliance at hotel quarantine locations and elsewhere) and deployment of ADF personnel and capability in support and logistics roles, and to transport pathology samples interstate for testing if required.

The State Control Centre has remained operational for the duration of the COVID-19 response. Resourcing of the SCC is scalable and will be reviewed by the State Control Team in line with this mission.

EMV have established the combined agency operations group (CAOG). This group combines relevant state agencies and the ADF to provide planning and technical expertise that can assist in a number of areas including planning, logistics and supply chain solutions, and generally assisting at times when normal agency arrangements are becoming overwhelmed. The CAOG forms a part of the overall SCC operating model supporting the State Controller Health.

Staff request: 10-12 planners/logisticians and 4 intelligence officers. This will add to the 9 planners currently operating from the State Control Centre

### **Medical and co-ordination staff to support drive through testing**

In addition to neighbourhood and door to door testing in hotspot suburbs it is essential to maintain a baseline testing level to effectively monitor the spread of the virus across the state.

A baseline target of 10,000 test a day will be set to ensure anyone with mild symptoms can get tested across the state. This is on top of testing of testing associated with any outbreaks, sensitive sights and close contacts of confirmed cases.

Existing retail and drive through sites will be maintained. An additional ten drive through testing sites will be stood up this week. This will include large drive through sites to support the effort, including the showgrounds, race courses and the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. ADF co-ordination and medical support for these testing sites is requested.

Staff request: 5 planners/logisticians and 200 medical staff

### **Security support services for hotel operations**

Similar to support provided in NSW, ADF security support for passengers entering and exiting hotel quarantine is sought.

Personnel request: between 50-100 personnel

Our contact person is [REDACTED], health commander, who can be contacted at [REDACTED] [@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@dhhs.vic.gov.au) and on [REDACTED].

I'm also happy to discuss.

Thanks

Chris

**Chris Eccles AO**

Secretary

Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria

Ph: 03 9651 5072

### **OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**

---

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Notice: This email and any attachments may be confidential and may contain copyright or privileged material. You must not copy, disclose, distribute, store or otherwise use this material without permission. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies of this email and any attachments. Unless otherwise stated, this email and any attachment do not represent government policy or constitute official government correspondence. The State does not accept liability in connection with computer viruses, data corruption, delay, interruption, unauthorised access or use.

---

**IMPORTANT:** This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

---



**From:** Frewen, John LTGEN  
**To:** [Gaetjens, Phil](#)  
**Cc:** [Campbell, Angus GEN](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Victorian Request for Assistance - RFA013, RFA014 & RFA015 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 25 June 2020 2:50:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Andrew S Crisp (DJCS) <[Andrew.Crisp@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Crisp@justice.vic.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 June 2020 12:31 PM  
**To:** EMACOV1D-19 <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; SCC-Vic [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@scc.vic.gov.au>; ccc <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; JOSS.VIC <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emv.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@justice.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@justice.vic.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Victorian Request for Assistance - RFA013, RFA014 & RFA015  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon all,

Based on changing operational and resourcing requirements I am writing to advise you that Victoria no longer wishes to progress RFA 15, the request for up to 850 resources to support our hotel quarantine operation (Op Soteria).

Thank you for your efforts in progressing this request and as always, we sincerely appreciate the support of EMA and the ADF.

Regards,

Andrew

**Andrew Crisp APM**

Emergency Management Commissioner

**Emergency Management Victoria**

Level 23, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne 3000

Ph +61 [REDACTED] | E [andrew.crisp@emv.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.crisp@emv.vic.gov.au)

EA: [REDACTED] | Ph +61 [REDACTED] | E [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@emv.vic.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@emv.vic.gov.au)>

[www.emv.vic.gov.au](http://www.emv.vic.gov.au)



**Working in conjunction with Communities,**

**Government, Agencies and Business**

This office is based on the land of the Traditional Owners, the people of the Kulin Nations.

We acknowledge their history, culture and Elders both past and present.

**From:** EMACOV1D-19 <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 June 2020 8:52 PM  
**To:** SCC-Vic [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@scc.vic.gov.au>; ccc <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; JOSS.VIC <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; Andrew S Crisp (DJCS) <[Andrew.Crisp@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Crisp@justice.vic.gov.au)>; EMACOV1D-19 <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Victorian Request for Assistance - RFA013, RFA014 & RFA015  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good evening SCC,  
 Defence has accepted all tasks as per RFA013, RFA014 and RFA015 without cost recovery.  
 Kind regards,

Assistant Director, Planning and Engagement  
 Crisis & Security Management Branch  
 Security & Resilience Group  
 Department of Home Affairs

P: 02 [REDACTED] | M:+61 [REDACTED] | E: [REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au

**UNCLASSIFIED****UNCLASSIFIED**


---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@scc.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 June 2020 8:03 PM  
**To:** ccc [REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; JOSS.VIC [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>;  
 EMACOV1D-19 <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Andrew Crisp (DJCS)

<Andrew.Crisp@justice.vic.gov.au>

**Subject:** Victorian Request for Assistance - RFA013, RFA014 & RFA015

On behalf of the Emergency Management Commissioner, please see attached three request for assistance from Victoria for support to the COVID-19 response,

Many thanks

[REDACTED]  
**Executive Officer for the  
 Emergency Management Commissioner  
 SCC-Vic (EMC Executive Officer)**

State Control Centre | Level 4, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Ph: 1300 368 722 (1300 EMV SCC)

Email: [REDACTED]@scc.vic.gov.au | Web: <https://cop.em.vic.gov.au>

The information in this message and in any attachments may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not read, forward, print, copy, disclose, or use in any way the information this message or any attachment contains. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete or destroy all copies of this message and any attachments.

**Important Notice:** The content of this email is intended only for use by the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email by mistake, please advise the sender and delete the message and attachments immediately. This email, including attachments, may contain confidential, sensitive, legally privileged and/or copyright information.

Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. The Department of Home Affairs and ABF respect your privacy and have obligations under the Privacy Act 1988.

Unsolicited commercial emails MUST NOT be sent to the originator of this email.

---

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

The content of this e-mail and any attachments may be private and confidential, intended



only for use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you must not read, forward, print, copy, disclose, use or store in any way the information this e-mail or any attachment contains.

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete or destroy all copies of this e-mail and any attachments.

Our organisation respects the privacy of individuals. For a copy of our privacy policy please go to our website or contact us.

**IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence.**

**Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.**

## REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

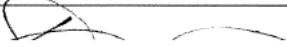

Requests for Australian Government non-financial assistance may be phoned to Emergency Management Australia (EMA) in the first instance, but must be confirmed by e-mail from the nominated official. The format for requests is as follows:

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	National support requested to assist COVID-19 (Victorian response)
<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	24 June 2020, 1900hrs AEDT
<b>REQUEST ID:</b>	EMV-RFA-015CV
<b>SITUATION:</b>	<p>The Victorian State Control Centre (SCC) is seeking the support to ensure the emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic remains effective with the increase in positive cases identified within the state.</p> <p>Since mandatory hotel quarantine for overseas travellers entering Australia in March 2020, Victoria has managed approximately 18,500 individuals. With the continued need to maintain the mandatory quarantine, it has been identified that there is the lack of access to skilled resources to undertake specific functions.</p> <p>This request is to seek personnel augmentation and assistance for Victorian Department of Health and Human Services in the mandatory quarantine of individuals who have returned from overseas (Operations Soteria).</p>
<b>OWN RESOURCES:</b>	Emergency Management Victoria has exhausted internal or contract sources across emergency agencies to fulfil these roles. ADF personnel in other States have proven to be uniquely suited to roles and functions being carried out within the current environment.
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<p>To commence 26 June 2020 for a period ending 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Due to the scale and complexity of the crisis, this is a high priority request, to ensure the stability in the established systems and process are continued.</p>
<b>DELIVERY LOCATION:</b>	The personnel would be required to operate from Melbourne metropolitan hotels that are being used for mandatory quarantine
<b>TASK DESCRIPTION:</b>	<p>The request is for up to 850 personnel to provide compliance and monitoring support to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at the designated hotels being used for mandatory quarantine.</p> <p>The Personnel will be required to operate on shift rotation basis, 7 days a week for the duration of this request.</p>

### JURISDICTION PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT DETAILS

<b>NAME:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Emergency Management Commissioner Executive Officer		
<b>AGENCY/ GROUP:</b>	Emergency Management Victoria		
<b>BH PHONE:</b>	1300 368 722	<b>MOB:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	[REDACTED]@scc.vic.gov.au		

**REQUEST APPROVED BY (MUST BE NOMINATED JURISDICTIONAL OFFICIAL)**

NAME:	Andrew Crisp 	
SIGNATURE:		
POSITION TITLE:	Emergency Management Commissioner	
BH PHONE:	1300 368 722	MOB:

**COMMENTS:** DHHS representative will be available at on site at each location to support the deployed personnel in the field.

The tasked personnel will be required to support the State Authorised Officers in active monitoring of quarantine compliance by individuals in hotel quarantine.

Dependant on the operational need, the number of Defence assets may be released when they are no longer required, to enable reallocation and/or crew respite.



PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

[Your Government](#) [Media](#) [Contact](#)

## PRESS CONFERENCE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ACT

# TRANSCRIPT

26 Jun 2020

Prime Minister

E&OE





**PRIME MINISTER:** The Chief Medical Officer and I thought we should congratulate our Matildas, the bid team, the Trans-Tasman team that has been able to secure the 2023 Women's World Cup. I think it's wonderful. If we could do backflips like Sam Kerr we would, but I'm not going to try that out here in this courtyard. That's one of the other rules of the courtyard, no backflips, you'll use that one day again I'm sure, Riley. It is great news, wonderful news, at a time when Australians are doing it so hard, so hard, each and every day, to get that bright spot of news with this wonderful event coming. It'll be the largest and undoubtedly will be the best. We can look forward to a magnificent event and to be part of so many other events as Australia grows out of the COVID crisis, grows out of the COVID recession and this will be an important milestone ahead for us to look forward to and build towards that point. So congratulations to all those who are involved and we thank all of those who supported Australia's bid. I've been in contact with Prime Minister Ardern this morning, as well, to congratulate the Kiwis. It will be great doing this together, when the world comes Down Under.

So on that, we might move to more formal mode, Brendan. On, obviously, a more serious note, there are a million new cases being reported of COVID-19 around the world every week. We are seeing the virus take hold in places like South America now at a level difficult to imagine and we are anticipating similar types of scenarios in Africa and other parts of the world as the virus makes its way. The challenge being faced globally only gets more complicated, more complex, more difficult. And against that backdrop, Australia's performance is remarkable, and that is a tribute to all who are involved. Certainly, of course, we have some challenges in Victoria at the moment but I think that does put it in perspective. We remain on track, the curve remains flat. But where you get bumps and when you get outbreaks, then you need to manage them and you need to respond to them, and that is exactly what is happening. And I commend the Victorian Government and I commend the other state governments who are supporting Victoria, and of course as the Federal Government is, at National Cabinet today there was a great sense of solidarity in supporting Victoria because this could occur in Queensland, it could occur in Western Australia, it could occur in Tasmania, New South Wales, in any other place. And one of the, some of the outbreaks occurred coming out of quarantine, out of hotels. There are hotel quarantines occurring in other states and territories as well. So it is a reminder that outbreaks will happen, but at National Cabinet today they remained firm on sticking with the three-step plan and continuing to make their announcements of easing restrictions that will continue into next month. Premiers will be making their own announcements about those issues either today or in the days that follow. Obviously, there is a challenge for now in Victoria and we had a rather extensive discussion about that outbreak and the response and the support that is being provided and can continue to be provided by other states, whether it's with testing resources and capabilities, or it is with health officers that are available to support the efforts in Victoria. And I have no doubt Victoria will return the favour at another time when another state or another territory is faced with that type of a situation. There was also, I think, a very good understanding that this is a localised outbreak. It is not all of Victoria. It is a part of the suburbs of Melbourne and the response is very much localised. It is also very culturally appropriate. It is a response that is bringing the health system, literally, to people's front door and to their street, to ensure that they can get the maximum rate of testing and be able to isolate those who have been infected by the virus.

And what this should say to Australians should be a message of confidence. There will be outbreaks. What matters is the response. There will be outbreaks and what matters is that we continue to build our capability to deal with those outbreaks. As you see the response on the ground, that is a reassurance to Australians all around the country that we can deal with this, and we will continue to deal with this. And while it may cause concern and anxiety in some parts of the community, please be reassured, states and territories, the Commonwealth, we're all working together to ensure that where these things happen then we can appropriately respond with all the resources that are necessary, with a tailored plan to deal with the very specific nature of any particular event.



So all states committed to continue on with the various plans that they have and they're making those announcements. Today we also agreed, and noted the advice of the Medical Expert Panel, that the two-square metre rule can be moved to for smaller premises. Smaller premises will be determined by the jurisdiction but, as a rule of thumb, that's around about 100 square metres. So that means for much smaller premises that would have otherwise been trying to stick to a four-square metre rule arrangement, this just gives them a bit more room for them to be taking more patrons. That had been considered by the AHPPC and so where jurisdictions choose to do that, it is up to them to make those decisions. In Tasmania and Western Australia they've already moved to that two-square metre arrangement, so other states will be free to consider that. Previously there had been a more formal rule around four-square metres and I think it just shows the flexibility that is now being able to be built into the response, based on the experience that everybody is having and is being shared.

The AHPPC, the medical expert panel, has also been tasked to develop a roadmap for advice to the National Cabinet on entertainment venues to assist with industry planning around major productions and events. At the announcement we made yesterday, one of the key issues that still we knew needed to be addressed was that they need greater certainty about when they can start planning events for. Whether that's 12 months away or six months away, so the plan will be addressing what may be possible for venues three months from now, six months, nine months, 12 months and so on. And that will assist those producers and other event planners with getting moving now and as a result being able to access and seek support through the entertainment support package that we announced yesterday. For example, South Australia is moving to 50 per cent attendance in theatres. And the Premier of South Australia, Steven Marshall, was pleased to report he had been at the theatre the night before. And that was wonderful to see those venues opening up again.

The National Cabinet also adopted the recommendations of the medical expert panel on a public health workforce strategy. This is about continuing to invest and support the development of a public health workforce on testing and tracing and localised outbreak responses. And so we need to remain ever vigilant and keep building up that expertise and the states and territories spoke about how that resource will be able to move around the country. There'll be much of it which is resident within a particular jurisdiction. But as we're seeing now in Victoria, officers and other officials will be able to move into other jurisdictions where there is a need. And there was an absolute commitment from everyone to be able to move those personnel where they needed to be to respond to any particular demand.

National Cabinet also confirmed the advice that the 14-day quarantine period kept at 14 days. But Brendan will talk about some of the testing arrangements that will be a little different going through that. There was also a statement which was adopted on the safe return to entertainment venues, which went into quite granular detail, which I won't make tedious by going through here. Quite specific rules about how they prepare venues and manage access and egress and so on. And we also received a briefing on the economic impacts from Dr Kennedy this afternoon. The Treasurer and I will be meeting with the CEOs of all the major banks. And a couple of issues will be there, particularly the issue of deferral of loans and the issues that are emerging in a few months from now and getting a better understanding of what their proposed practises will be there and we'll be speaking to them about those issues. Also around getting access to finance in relation to new construction and rebuilds, obviously supported by the HomeBuilder programme at a Commonwealth level, but the state governments as well. We want to make sure that those who've decided to go ahead with those plans who don't already have finance are in a position to get access to that finance. And we also raised the issues around getting approvals for HomeBuilder programmes, for particular homes and redevelopments, particularly those affected in bushfire regions and that is most acute in New South Wales and in Victoria.

We also had a cyber security update. You'll remember the statement I made a week ago and it was a good opportunity a week on,

after there had been a lot of technical briefings at officials levels with all premiers, chief ministers together for Rachel Noble from ASD to brief all premiers and chief ministers on those issues.

Outside of that, this is the Chief Medical Officer's last briefing is the Chief Medical Officer. He's been in the living rooms of Australians now for many months. And I know, Brendan, you have been a person of great assurance to Australians with your calm way of explaining what are often very complex things. You've given Australians, I think, a great peace of mind. Brendan is taking up the role of Secretary of the Department of Health, which we delayed because of the seriousness of this issue and his keenness to continue on in that role and until he was in a position to now hand it over to Dr Kelly. And so I want to thank you very much, not just for the way you've reached out to Australians, Professor Murphy, but the outstanding leadership you've shown across the AHPPC, the medical expert panel, and the unfailing advice that you've provided to me and to my ministers and to my Cabinet. And so we thank you very much. He told me a little story before, he bumped into a little boy, was it?

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** A little girl.

**PRIME MINISTER:** A little girl who said, how did you get out of the television? I'm sure some of you get that from time to time, but I think it's a sign of endearment. And so thank you very much. And I'll hand over the CMO.

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** Thanks, PM. So as the PM has said, this virus is accelerating around the world. We are in a very fortunate island, but we will remain at risk of importation of cases for the foreseeable future. Every day in Australia we have cases in hotel quarantine, mostly in New South Wales and Victoria, because they're taking the lion's share of that hotel quarantine hotel. Hotel quarantine is never going to be 100 percent perfect and importation our borders, whilst we have done so well with borders, we can't be absolutely sure that there won't be more and continuing imports of cases. We also, as we've said, can't be sure that there isn't small amounts of virus circulating in parts of the country. So the outbreaks, mini outbreak, we've seen in Victoria is what we predicted. What we planned for. When I took to the National Cabinet the plan for reopening, removing restrictions, we assured National Cabinet that the likelihood of outbreaks was high and that we were ready to respond to them. And that is exactly what the Victorian health authorities are doing right now. They have a huge team, they're contact tracing over a thousand people. They're testing extraordinary numbers of people. And that's a way to bring a localised outbreak under control, to go to where the problem is, engage with the population test, isolate, quarantine, standard public health response. We're seeing some continuing cases, 20 to 30 a day in Victoria over this week. That's what you'd expect. That is absolutely what you'd expect as you bring this outbreak under control. The cases that are detected today were infected five to seven days ago. So the fact that we're not seeing a major escalation in numbers is reassuring. And we are very confident that the Victorian response which is being assisted, as the PM has said, by people from interstate as well. It's good, strong and appropriate and it's focal. So we're dealing with the problem. We may see more such outbreaks. We're very likely to see more such outbreaks, not just in Victoria, could be anywhere in the country. We're prepared. We're responding. And we're very, very comfortable with the way things are going.

As the PM has said, we have to reiterate the importance of 14 days quarantine for returning international travellers. That is because the risk is still very high. The country risk profile is changing all the time. We're seeing important cases in hotel quarantine from a different range of countries now. We are going to start testing people on entry to quarantine and testing people before they leave quarantine to see whether a testing regimen might help in the future to modify that quarantine in certain circumstances. But at the moment, even though we know it's a burden on our returning citizens and permanent residents, it's something that the great majority are very happy to put up with because they know it's protecting their fellow Australians from the importation of this virus.

So I was very confident to be able to reassure National Cabinet on my last day as CMO that we remain on track. We remain on track with our reopening and we remain prepared to respond to outbreaks as and when they occur. I'd like to thank the PM for his kind words. Particularly, I would like to thank my fellow members of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. Any achievements that I might have had as a collective achievement. The wisdom of that group is extraordinary. Every member of the Federation of Australia has responded well. One of the great legacies of this outbreak is how our Federation has worked well. At the health level, we have consensus cooperative assisting each other and we have taken the best expert advice and given it fearlessly to our first ministers who have taken that advice on every occasion. That makes me very proud. I won't be moving away from the COVID response as Secretary of the Health Department. I will still be very much involved. I just won't have to appear in front of too many television cameras. Thank you very much.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you.

**JOURNALIST:** You stood here not too long ago and told Australians to stop it when it came to panic buying. You said it was ridiculous. How disappointed are you to see that today there's been limits introduced again on toilet paper in Coles and Woolworths and what's your message to Australia?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, it's the same message I gave last time. Stop it. It's ridiculous. But more importantly, those restrictions have been put in place, the coordination commission that works around these issues has been working with the suppliers and the retail outlets to put that in place. I'm sure it will pass, as it did last time, and there's no need for it. And I think today it's important to reassure people the outbreak doesn't mean there's a problem. The response to that outbreak is strong, which means that Australians can have confidence. Of course, there are going to be challenges, as Brendan Murphy has just said, but we're on top of it and we will continue to work together to stay on top of it. As a result, there is no need for the anxiety that would lead to that type of behaviour. Mark.

**JOURNALIST:** What concerns do you have about attempts at foreign interference into Australia's political systems? And what information can you share about the raids in Sydney today?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, it's a matter that is being pursued by the taskforce, which became operational last December, which we established. The details of that I'm not at liberty to go into, as I'm sure you'd expect. But it's been an investigation that has been going on for some time. It's taken, it's elevated to a new level today. I think the actions of the Australian Federal Police and ASIO demonstrate that the threats in this area are real. The need to take action is necessary. And the Government is absolutely determined to ensure that nobody interferes with Australia's activities. We won't cop anyone coming and seeking to interfere in our political system, in our energy sector, in any area of the perceived area of opportunity for an outside actor. We won't cop it. We are a resilient people. We will stand up to it and we will take action, as what you've seen today demonstrates.

**JOURNALIST:** PM, you said you and your Treasurer were talking to the banks later today. What is it you'll be seeking? Specifically on loan deferrals, will you be asking for greater flexibility in terms of avoiding a cliff, for example?

**PRIME MINISTER:** The discussions are of a broad nature. It is an opportunity for the Treasurer and I to effectively get on each other's page in terms of where we're at and where we're seeing the economy and the impacts, what they're seeing in their own information through their own networks and their own data, we can share similar things. It's to address some of the very real issues you've just noted. The Government has a range of measures in place until September. The banks also. And we do want to ensure there's smooth transitions that occur. As I've said now and on numerous occasions, there are parts of the economy now which are building back up and that's welcome. That's great. And we need to ensure that what we're doing in providing supports is

not getting in the way of that or preventing that. But equally, there are parts of our economy, and we had a very heartbreaking example of that yesterday with Qantas, and equally sitting down and working with the entertainment sector. And, of course, there's the tourism sector, particularly in regional and remote parts of the country, that will experience these downturns for much longer and obviously, they will need ongoing support. And so we're looking to make sure that we're integrating all of that and ensuring there is as smooth a transition as possible and that we're all working to the same end.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, on the economy reopening, is it a reasonable approach for a state to reopen its borders in July, but exclude residents from localised hotspots? Is that a reasonable approach you think could be taken? Are you still expecting that all states will reopen in July except WA?

**PRIME MINISTER:** That is my expectation. The other point I'd make in response to your first question. Yes, I do think that is a reasonable way to do that. And that's exactly what the Northern Territory government is doing. The Northern Territory government is opening up and I commend the Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, for that approach. If you're, you know, you have to fill out a statutory declaration going into the Northern Territory about where you've come from and if you've come from a hotspot, well, you have to go in quarantine. And that's entirely reasonable because what that does is reinforces that this is about where the hotspot is and these are localised outbreaks. You know, if you live in Wangaratta, as I said yesterday, or Wagga, you're just as affected by what's happening in the hotspots of Melbourne. And so to have those sort of broad-brush type restrictions really, I don't think makes an enormous amount of sense. And so this is part, I think, of a more tailored, more localised response to outbreaks. Of course, people shouldn't be going out of those areas and nor should people be going into those areas. That's how you manage an outbreak. And that's exactly what the Victorian government is doing. That's how the New South Wales government has also responded in terms of the hot zones. And I welcome the approach followed by the Northern Territory.

**JOURNALIST:** When do you expect international students to start returning to university campuses across Australia?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, we're still working on those issues with a number of states and territories and we've got some good plans there. But that won't happen until Australian students are back at universities. That won't happen unless Australians can move from one part of the country to where that's happening.

**JOURNALIST:** [Inaudible] safe corridor. Sorry to interrupt you.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, they are the prerequisites. Australians have to be back at those universities first and the borders of the states in which those campuses are, need to be opened first. And so there are a range of prerequisites that the states are well aware of. And they'll be applied.

**JOURNALIST:** Can I just ask about the hotel quarantine arrangements for international arrivals. Professor Murphy has mentioned that everyone will be tested now for COVID. We heard this morning that 30 per cent of the people in quarantine in Melbourne are refusing tests. Will Home Affairs be requiring travellers to sign a consent form before they return to Australia? Or do the states need to upgrade their emergency powers to be able to compel people to be tested? And have we seen the same sorts of figures in New South Wales as well?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, I'll ask the Chief Medical Officer to respond also. But it is a matter for the states in terms of what's done within their borders, within their jurisdictions in complying with health requests.

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** So, yes, I think that 30 per cent is quite a high rate. Other states haven't seen the same rate of refusal, but the states have the powers and they obviously will work it through locally. But you

have powers to say to someone, well, we won't let you out of quarantine until you've been tested and had a clear test. So there... I think most people, when they understand it and particularly we will, as you say, make sure that people understand before they come that this is a requirement. And I think most people will cooperate with that arrangement.

**JOURNALIST:** Just on the Women's World Cup. Were you surprised by the outcome? And what do you make of our biscuit-loving English friends who want to eat our Tim Tams but don't want us to host the World Cup? Are we going to retaliate with a Tim Tam tariff for Boris?

**PRIME MINISTER:** No, there'll be no Tim Tam tariffs. But look, my reaction to the result is one of being thrilled. And I got the news through the evening last night, in the middle of the night, and was really pleased. I mean, the Commonwealth obviously put \$5 million into this bid and because we believed in it, so I wasn't surprised. But I was thrilled. And there will be the opportunity, I'm sure, for me to have a chat with Boris at some point and I'm sure he'll make it up to me some other way.

**JOURNALIST:** Just on that ASIO activity up in Sydney. From the briefings that you've had, how concerning or how serious are the matters that are under investigation in this matter?

**PRIME MINISTER:** They're extremely serious. The actions that have been taken by ASIO and the AFP demonstrate that seriousness. The careful nature of the way they're undertaking these investigations. I was briefed on these matters last night and advised that they would be taking these actions. These are matters that I am also aware have been under investigation for some time. They're operational matters, they are decisions taken by those agencies rightly. But the reason they could go and do that in the way they have done it is because our Government a) put the laws in place to ensure that doing things that are under investigation here are contrary to laws in Australia. And secondly, to set up and give the capacity to ASIO and the AFP to go and enforce it. So our Government made the laws to counter foreign interference, and we've provided the resources and the enforcement resources in particular to go and make those laws a reality.

**JOURNALIST:** On the entertainment package, do you anticipate that young Australians will be able to enjoy outdoor music festivals this summer? And if I may, just on the smaller music venues, what do you say to some smaller venues who might not be eligible for direct support and feel frustrated that their support comes from them taking out further debt through concessional loans?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, the grants and the loans apply across a vast array of business sizes, so they wouldn't be discounted for that reason at all. This can be from quite small events through to quite large events. So they would not be excluded from that. And I would hope that they would think through how they might approach the Minister's programme to be able to access that support, to get those projects up and away. The arts and entertainment sector already is benefiting as they constantly, when I meet with them, show their appreciation for through the JobKeeper programme, but also the JobSeeker programme, which for many that is the programme which they've used. But for many others it has been the JobKeeper programme. So in terms of the outdoor venues, well, that's a matter more in the hands of the states and territories, but we are already seeing an easing of those restrictions. I think there is an appetite to get back to something. But it would sort of, I would assume, and Brendan I'm sure you'd comment, have to be under quite controlled circumstances. And this is one of the reasons why we've asked the medical expert panel to look at what a road map would be for the entertainment sector so they can actually make some decisions about what is possible. But the key things that the expert advice has been focusing on is the ability to know who's there, where they are when they're there and who they're coming in contact with and how those social distancing measures are being... enforced is the wrong word, but practised. And so as time goes on, we're finding that states and territories, as well as operators, are finding more



innovative ways to respect the social distancing and conduct their business. And so I would hope that it would not be beyond their imagination to be able to overcome those issues and I would hope that we would see that happen as soon as it can be practically arranged. But Brendan?

**PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** So, Prime Minister, I couldn't do more expert advice than you did. But the principle really is exactly as the PM has said, to make sure who's there so that there are tickets with you can contact people. And at least initially, whilst we're getting confidence that people are seated and are able to distance. So at the moment, many states are already planning to have music, live music events in outdoor stadiums where you can put people in seats. The sort of festivals where people crowded together in an uncontrolled fashion are more risky and they're probably a bit later down the track. But in some states, as they get more confident, they may look at those in increasing size.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, Bain Capital has agreed to buy Virgin. Have you received any assurances that jobs and routes will be saved?

**PRIME MINISTER:** I have been in the National Cabinet meeting all this morning, I've just only received the news while we were there earlier today about the success of that programme. I am pleased that a successful bidder has emerged from that process. That's what we anticipated would happen and I look forward to Virgin going forward and more importantly, for the jobs that are in Virgin to be being able to be secured. It is a sector, though, as we saw with Qantas yesterday, that faces very, very significant difficulties. Virgin is now focusing, obviously, on the domestic operations and the domestic operations have a much more positive outlook than the international operations. And so, therefore, you would hope that they would be able to move to a more profitable situation, at least for those operations, given they're keen to focus on those things, but it's a good next step. There's still a long way to go and the Government will continue to provide the broader support that it has been providing.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister yesterday an audit found a massive failure in the Environment Department's management of the EPBC Act. You've spoken about the need to cut green tape before. This showed that there's been massive blow-outs in approval times. A former Environment Department official has linked those blow-outs to declining budget over the last seven years. Will you commit to giving the Department the resources it needs to manage the environmental legislation effectively?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, we did, and that's why they've been able to reduce the backlog of those environmental approvals, which postdate that report down to just a handful now. And that's why we have had the review of the EPBC Act, which we're expecting very soon, and there will be some options we would hope that would seek to streamline those approval processes to ensure that resources can be applied where they can be most effectively used and to do that work in concert with states and territories. It's been a matter that we were to have looked at more closely today in the National Cabinet. But given the need to address the issues in Victoria, we've delayed that discussion for a further fortnight. So the short answer to your question is, we're already doing it.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, just again on state borders. What assurances did Queensland give you about opening their borders by July 10? And were you surprised on Victoria's decision to walk away from the offer of a thousand or the request for 1,000 troops to 150?

**PRIME MINISTER:** On the first one, I understand the Premier of Queensland, there is the existing date of July 10. And I understand that they are reviewing that and they'll be making further announcements about that date in coming days. And they have a review and they'll take that advice and they'll make a further decision. But as far as I'm aware, the date is July 10 and if there's any change to that, then that is something the Premier would advise. On the issue of the Defence Force deployment to Victoria, I had a discussion on, well, several discussions, many discussions with the Premier over the course of this week going

back to last Saturday and talking of what the issues were. The medical expert panel met on the Sunday. There was a review of where there may be gaps that we might have to assist with and they were then operationalised. I spoke to the Premier on Tuesday night and he set out a number of areas where they would need support. That actually didn't include the issues around that large number of 1,000 for the quarantine. That was a further request that came the following day, as I understand from officials, and that was a request that was subsequently withdrawn, I assume as a result of further discussions by officials in Victoria. But the point is this. Where any state needs some support here, then we will provide it. And these situations can be quite fluid and the needs can change in a short period of time if they didn't end up needing that additional support and that can be done by their police service, well, good. But if they needed additional support from the Federal Government, then it would have been there. And I spoke to General Campbell late on Tuesday night, and he had the show ready to go the next day. And that's what the states can expect. But I've got to say, I was very pleased by the solidarity of the Premiers today in supporting Victoria. As I said, it could be them on another occasion and I think it showed us, as Brendan Murphy was saying, the way the federation is working. Sure, they have their odd words about each other from time to time, about which state they should visit, which borders they want to shut to each other from time to time. I'm for all the borders to go and for the jobs to open. But what is important is that they are all supporting each other with their resources and with their learnings. Sam?

**JOURNALIST:** A question on jobKeeper and providing certainty with businesses going forward, the turnover test currently operates that you qualify once and that's it but you have to put in our data monthly. Obviously, that could be switched over to a monthly qualifying period. Now, that's something the Treasury review has looked at. Is that something that you see applying before September potentially or only after September if you were to extend JobKeeper for some specific industries?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, I've said consistently that the scheme will run as it was intended to run until the end of September and there are no changes to that.

**JOURNALIST:** But does that preclude changing the turnover test?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, that would be a change to the scheme. And so I've said I mean, that the point about JobKeeper and putting it in for six months when other countries only put it in for three months was to give stability and a platform for employees and employers alike so they could operate with confidence about what that set of arrangements were. And I have no doubt that there are many businesses now, fortunately, who have moved back above that threshold. I suspect that's absolutely the case and I certainly hope it is for their sake and their employees. But we are working under the arrangements we put in the legislation and will continue to do that for the current phase of that programme. In relation to future phases of what we will need to do in terms of aggregate demand stimulus, well, as I've said on numerous occasions, we'll be announcing that in time for the economic statement. And these are considerations that the Government is still working through. But as I've assured, whether it be Qantas or those in the entertainment sector or the tourism and hospitality sector or regions like North Queensland, we get it. We understand that they are going to be hurting more for longer than other parts of the economy. And so we will continue to tailor our fiscal supports to those areas that will continue to need them. Our hope is more and more parts of the economy won't need them and they'll be able to move forward. But on this point in particular, the income support side of it is really important, but so is the industrial relations flexibility, and that is the constant feedback we have as well. I mean, if we were to go to a situation where the industrial relations flexibility was withdrawn post September, what that would mean is, the rigid rules around full time employment and part time employment, which employers are now managing to keep people in jobs and to manage and share hours and doing things like that. If those rigid rules were reinforced, and we talked about this at National Cabinet today, then those who are on part time hours would be most at risk because in order to fulfil the requirement of the full time hours at the full rates, then I fear that that

could lead to part time employment being lost unnecessarily. And we know that and particularly women are affected, would be affected if part time jobs were to go as well as, you know, more than 12-month casual employees who have more casual hours. That's where businesses may have to regrettably move, if that were the case. So it's important in talking about ongoing fiscal support that we also talk about ongoing industrial relations flexibility. Industrial relations inflexibility in this environment will cost jobs. And there are obviously issues that we're talking through. Last one. Two more.

**JOURNALIST:** What was the feedback you got from premiers and chief ministers about that issue and how long.... What's your sense of how long that extra flexibility will be needed for?

**PRIME MINISTER:** They're all matters under discussion. I'm not going to go into the comments of individual premiers and chief ministers, only to say that there is a great unity of purpose about keeping as many people in jobs as possible. We all want to see that and I'm very appreciative of all the premiers and chief ministers commitment to the practical goal of that. And that often means we're all doing things that some might find a little different. But we're all focusing on the same task.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, on the international border, yesterday Qantas, the boss, said basically he doesn't think it's going to open until late next year at the very earliest. Do you share that pessimism? Is there no chance of travelling overseas in the next at least 12 months?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, we hope that we might be able to come to an arrangement with New Zealand far earlier than that. Whether we do that with other Pacific nations, I know there's interest from that perspective as well. There've been a number of other countries that have expressed an interest, given our health success in Australia. That doesn't necessarily mean that they would be invitations we would take up. So as you look around the world and you see the intensity of the virus escalating, not decelerating, then I think it is not unreasonable for Alan Joyce to form the view that he has. But no one really knows. And that's the problem. And that's just the uncertainty we have to deal with. And as we make so many decisions, you can't always do it on full information and you have to make judgements based on the best possible advice on where you think things are going and whether it's our health advisers or our economic advisers, Treasury or others, that's what we're seeking to do. And that's why it is good to know what the next step will be three months from now or six months. But the earlier you try and make those decisions, the greater uncertainty there is about the environment you're making decisions about. And so we will continue to just scrutinise those things very diligently. This has been an incredibly busy week with meetings of the Expenditure Review Committee and Cabinets and there've been numerous meetings and the Treasurer and I, we spend a lot of time together at the best of times, but at the moment, we are as inseparable as any two people could be. And there is a lot more work to do. Okay. Thank you. Yes, I'm sorry, John, then we'll have to go.

**JOURNALIST:** IR flexibility beyond September. Is that sort of a separate thing you're talking about, but related to the Christian Porter five-group process...

**PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, separate thing.

**JOURNALIST:** And is it... would it require legislation or could employers and employees get together and do it themselves, or would it require legislation?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well, it worked far more effectively when it was done by legislation earlier this year. But we are talking about another phase. That's the point I've been trying to make now for some time. We've had this phase of six months. There'll be another phase beyond that and there'll be a separate set of challenges that we have to deal with there. And we also have to be

mindful of the resources that are available to do this task. Today, the financial statements for May have been released today and you'll see there's a lot of red ink on those statements. And you'll see there the significant change in the fiscal position that has occurred as a result of the last few months. Now, we don't step back from the decisions we've taken. They've been absolutely necessary to ensure that Australia has not only had one of the best health responses to the COVID crisis and that continues, but also one of the best economic responses. Last night I had a call with Chancellor Merkel and we were talking about these issues and Australia's success in this area is well appreciated and understood. But it was another good opportunity to swap notes. Thanks, everyone.



PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

[Copyright](#) [FOI Disclosure Log](#) [About this Website](#) [Accessibility](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Privacy Statement](#)



Search Defence

Search

DEFENCE

MINISTERS

NAVY

ARMY

AIR FORCE



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Department of Defence Ministers

[Home](#)[Releases ▾](#)[Previous Ministers](#)[Home](#) / [Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC](#) / [Media releases](#) / [Defence support to Victoria](#)

# Defence support to Victoria

31 July 2020

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has expanded its support to Victoria's COVID-19 response, with around 1,400 personnel deployed in Victoria at the request of State authorities.

The ADF's current tasks include:

- Around 300 ADF personnel providing support to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in contact tracing, data management, logistics and planning;
- More than 200 personnel supporting Victoria Police, including at checkpoints, in logistics, planning, the Police Assistance Phone Line, and CBD community engagements;
- About 200 medical personnel supporting public health testing in Melbourne and four regional centres: Shepparton, Bendigo, Wangaratta and Horsham;
- 20 personnel are undertaking general duties training with Ambulance Victoria so Defence can support paramedics with the transport of non-emergency patients if required;
- Accompanying DHHS authorised officers who are visiting homes to provide infection notifications to those uncontactable by phone;
- Assisting Emergency Management Victoria's Regional Control Centre and its Incident Management Team (IMT) in Colac and Castlemaine; and
- Planning support to the Victoria State Control Centre.

Defence has personnel ready to provide further support to aged care



**Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC**  
Minister for Defence

## Media contacts

Ben Martin: +61 447 219 902

Nicky Hamer:

+61 437 989 927

Defence Media:

[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



[Biography](#) | [Media releases](#) |  
[Speeches](#) | [Statements](#) |  
[Transcripts](#)

facilities and at the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre.

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said Defence is well prepared to assist.

"This is a complex and evolving situation, but Australians can be confident Defence is always ready to assist in times of need," Minister Reynolds said.

"In addition to the Joint Task Force personnel in Victoria, we have embedded senior ADF officer, Commodore Mark Hill RAN, in DHHS to provide advice on command and coordination arrangements to boost their capacity to respond to the crisis.

"The ADF has highly trained and capable personnel with their skills that can be used in a variety of settings depending on the task.

"When the call came, ADF nurses were on the ground in an aged care facility supporting residents in less than two hours, demonstrating their flexibility and professionalism."

Defence is also benefitting from the partnerships it built with Victorian agencies during the devastating bushfires in Victoria.

"Whether it's in frontline medical roles or in complex planning, Defence is expanding and amplifying the capabilities of Victorian agencies to stop the spread and save lives," Minister Reynolds said.

Contributing to the Whole-of-Government COVID-19 response is Defence's main effort.

There are currently about 3,200 ADF personnel deployed around the country providing support to state and territory authorities on Operation COVID-19 Assist.

More information can be found at <https://www.defence.gov.au/covid-19/>

Imagery is available at:  
<http://images.defence.gov.au/s20201233>

Vision is available at:  
[https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/mediahub/Ekg0EjNL5b1Epe3igKLDB04B8rkiTtUjFeh2ijaR1i1\\_HQ?e=H0YHDw](https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/mediahub/Ekg0EjNL5b1Epe3igKLDB04B8rkiTtUjFeh2ijaR1i1_HQ?e=H0YHDw)

## More releases

Revolutionising future mine countermeasure technology  
25 August 2020

ADF exercises capability at RIMPAC  
18 August 2020

Boosting Australia's naval shipbuilding capacity through new Naval Architecture program  
18 August 2020

Australia delivers humanitarian supplies to Beirut  
15 August 2020

Creating opportunities for Australian industry in the Hunter Class Frigate Program  
13 August 2020

Defending Australia and its National Interests



[Contact us](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Error/bug](#)