



COVID 19 Member Support Team



Fortnightly Communique #17

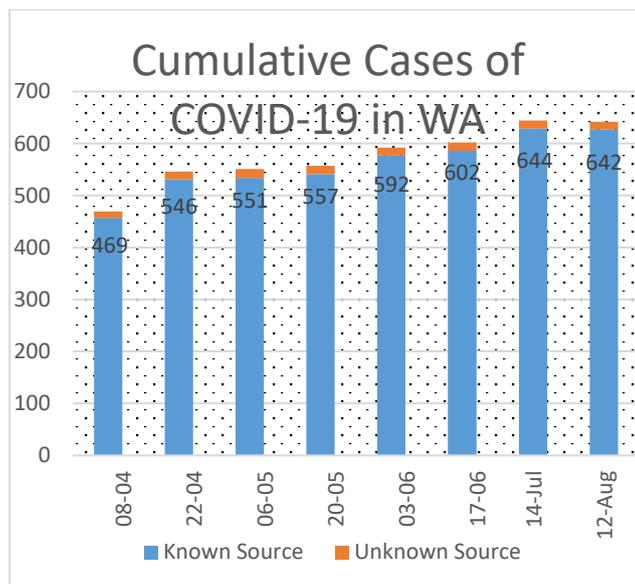
Wednesday 12th August 2020 5pm

Daily Status, 5pm

There are **22127** cases of COVID-19 in Australia.
6544 new cases in the past 14 days.

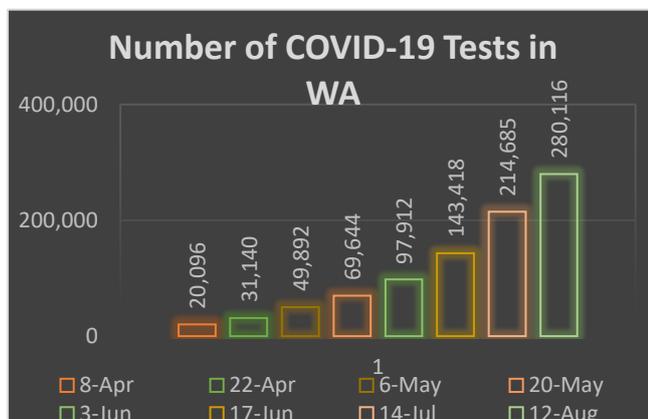
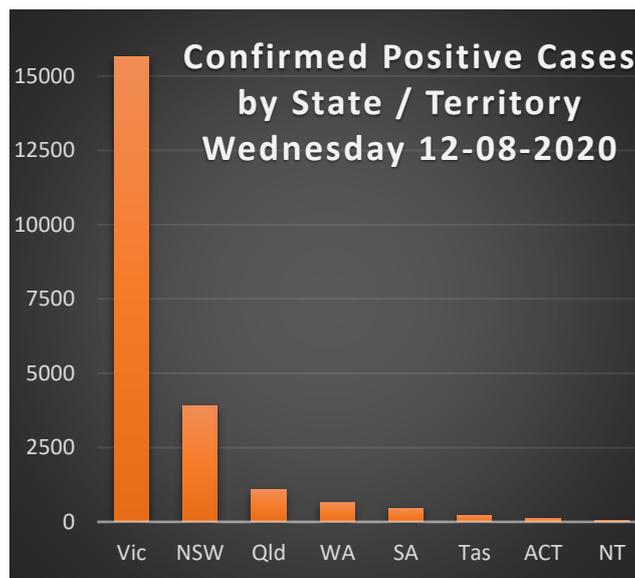
Western Australia has had **642** cases – **0** new case in the past 7 days. There is currently **1** active case and **632** people have recovered. Please note that the “historical cases” have been excluded from reporting numbers so the statistics last fortnight were higher.

There are currently **15** unknown sources. No new ACTIVE regional cases. There have been **73** regional cases in total and all have recovered. See chart below for regional breakdown.



*Please note that the “historical cases” have now been excluded from reporting numbers so the statistics last fortnight were higher.

Region	Active Cases	Cleared Cases	Total Cases
Kimberley	0	20	20
Pilbara	0	5	5
Mid-West	0	3	3
Goldfields	0	8	8
Wheatbelt	0	12	12
South West	0	16	16
Great Southern	0	9	9
Total	0	73	73



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Fortnightly Roundup



Another fortnight has passed with WA recording 4 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. We have recorded 0 cases in the past 7 days with 1 current active cases related to overseas and interstate travel.

WA remains in phase 4 of the recovery roadmap and a decision whether to move to stage 5 will be made in the coming weeks. Initially WA was to move to stage 5 on the 15th of August but this was delayed due to the severe extent of the second wave in Victoria

Currently WA's hard border [and restrictions on entering remote Aboriginal Communities](#) remain in place.

Victoria has introduced mandatory wearing of masks in public unless they have a lawful exception and stage 3 stay at home restrictions apply. NSW is experiencing small cluster outbreaks and today New Zealand has 5 new cases.

This has been a sobering reminder that we cannot be complacent and that we must continue to social distance, wash hands, stay home from work if you are unwell, cough and sneeze into your elbow or tissue, and get tested early as you are most infectious when you first start experiencing symptoms.

Check for [COVID clinics locations here](#).

Current Developments

New National Agreement on Closing the Gap marks historic shift to improve Aboriginal peoples' life outcomes

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australian (AHCWA) strongly supports the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which has been signed by the Coalition of Peaks, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, and the Australian Local Government Association.

For too long, Aboriginal people have experienced poorer life outcomes than other Australians, and have been excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives. The National Agreement has the potential to change this, and to make a real difference to the lives of Aboriginal people and their families.

As part of the Coalition of Peaks, AHCWA has joined more than fifty other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled peak bodies to hold governments to account for Closing the Gap. In this work, AHCWA has committed to ensuring that Aboriginal people and community controlled organisations are at the centre of the National Agreement.

Under the agreement, all governments have committed to four Priority Reforms, which will fundamentally change the way they work with Aboriginal communities and organisations.



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The four Priority Reforms commit governments to: new partnerships with Aboriginal communities across the country; strengthen community controlled organisations to deliver closing the gap services; address structural racism within government agencies and organisations; and improve sharing of data and information with Aboriginal organisations to support shared decision-making.

AHCWA is pleased that the National Agreement also includes commitments to achieving targets across a wide variety of areas that impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. AHCWA strongly supports the development of culturally appropriate solutions to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities in areas including housing, justice, safety, education and employment.

The National Agreement is informed by the voices of more than 4000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in engagements across Australia last year. These voices unanimously supported the four Priority Reforms, and guided the Coalition of Peaks' negotiations on the National Agreement. They must continue to be heard in the coming months and years as the agreement is implemented.

The National Agreement does not include everything that the Coalition of Peaks wanted, nor everything that Aboriginal people have said is needed to improve their lives. But governments have been pushed in their commitments on Closing the Gap,

and the National Agreement ensures that we will continue to sit at the negotiating table.

AHCWA acknowledges that the work of the Coalition of Peaks is one part of a much bigger picture, of what has come before us and what still needs to be done. We are standing on the shoulders of our ancestors, and it is their work before us that has made our work possible. We continue to do what we can to honour them with our actions as we work for a brighter future for our people.

To read the full new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, head to the Coalition of Peaks website: <http://coalitionofpeaks.org.au/final-national-agreement-on-closing-the-gap/>

For more information and media enquiries

AHCWA Chairperson: Vicki O'Donnell, 0429 110 440; Coalition of Peaks: Jo Scard on 0457 725 953 or jo@fiftyacres.com; and Julia Macerola on 0422 337 332 or julia@fiftyacres.com

COVID-19 advice website

The Australian Government have updated their criteria for people most at risk of COVID-19 and are encouraging us all to ensure we protect our self and our mob to stop the spread of COVID. See [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and remote communities'](#) website for more details.



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Kimberley COVID Recovery Plan Unveiled

The McGowan Government has unveiled a [\\$110.9 million package for the Kimberley region](#) as part of the WA COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

The package includes developments in rebuilding and upgrading infrastructure, supporting existing industries, investment in renewable energy and new technologies, as well as strengthening WA's health and community service's by investing:

- \$9.77 million for Aboriginal regional suicide prevention plans in each region of WA.
- \$18.8 million towards regional renal hostels including a new service in Broome and services in Fitzroy Crossing, Derby and Kununurra;
- \$7.98 million towards the planning and development of the Broome Health and Wellbeing Campus.
- \$1.85 million for upgrades to alcohol and other drug facilities in regional WA.
- Establishing a "mobile" metro health workforce to back up and relieve regional staff

Portable isolation rooms to further protect country residents

The McGowan Government has bolstered Western Australia's emergency preparedness for COVID-19 with [10 portable isolation anterooms](#) in which six will be deployed to keep regional and remote Western Australians safe from the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

The Safespear portable anterooms can convert any room into a negative pressure or positive pressure isolation room to keep infected patients in a safe, separate space, as well as protecting vulnerable patients from the threat of infectious diseases.

Clinical Update

A reminder for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal Communities to remain diligent and not be complacent in relation to COVID-19 in WA.

Prevention measures should still be reinforced in clinics and in community health promotion efforts. We must ensure COVID testing is being undertaken where able, and a more enhanced level of testing completed where large gatherings are occurring and people in community fit testing criteria.

There have been reports of people crossing borders and entering restricted Aboriginal communities for sorry business and returning home to country.

As health service providers we must keep our ear to the ground and if there is any one that has entered the community from elsewhere, they must be tested for COVID-19 and quarantined from the rest of the community until the COVID test is complete.

Local border security officers in your region should be notified so that they can monitor border breaches as this is a risk. Keep your mob safe!



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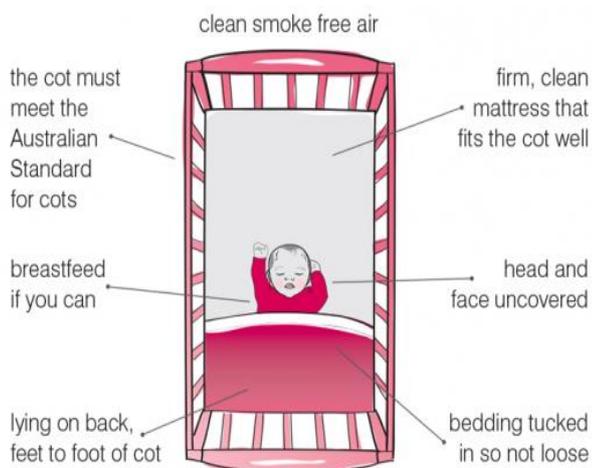


Safe Sleeping

Friday 14th August is Red Nose Day which is a fund raising effort that originated from a parent bereavement group founded in 1977 “ who wanted to make sure the devastating impact of the death of their child never happened to anyone else” (Red Nose Website, 2020).

In Australia, nine children die suddenly and unexpectedly every day. That is more than 3,000 babies and young children in a year. The Red Nose campaign has raised awareness of stillbirth, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and fatal sleeping accidents and provides necessary support for grief stricken families.

The research which Red Nose funds have supported have resulted in six safe sleeping recommendations which have decreased the rate of SIDS in Australia by 85%.



Whenever you put your baby down to sleep, day or night, give them a safe place to sleep.

- Always put baby to sleep on their back.
- Baby should sleep in their own cot, in your room, for the first twelve months.
- No soft or puffy bedding and don't use pillows.
- Make sure baby's face and head are uncovered.
- Use a firm mattress that fits your baby's cot.
- The cot should meet Australian Standards.
- Give baby a smoke-free environment before and after the birth.
- Never put your baby to sleep in your bed. The risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or a sleeping accident is much higher when your baby has been exposed to drugs or smoking during pregnancy.
- Breastfeed if you can
- If you plan to use drugs and alcohol always make sure there is an adult, who is not affected by alcohol or drugs, available to care for your baby.
- Make sure that others caring for your baby know how to provide your baby with a safe environment.

For more information see [here](#).





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of Western Australia

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COVID-19 PREVENTION

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF
& YOUR COMMUNITY



WASH YOUR
HANDS



COUGH & SNEEZE
THE RIGHT WAY

INTO YOUR
ELBOW SO
THERE'S NO
BIG SPRAY

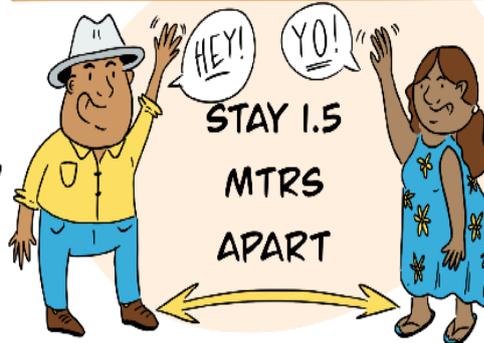


CLEAN
SURFACES



DISINFECT
DOORKNOBS,
HANDLES &
PHONES

KEEP SOME SPACE
FROM OTHERS



DON'T TOUCH
YOUR FACE



HANDS OFF
YOUR EYES,
NOSE &
MOUTH

WWW.AHCWA.ORG.AU
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Posters available on AHCWA website [here](#),



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