



Weekly Communique #10

Wednesday 27th May, 2020 5pm

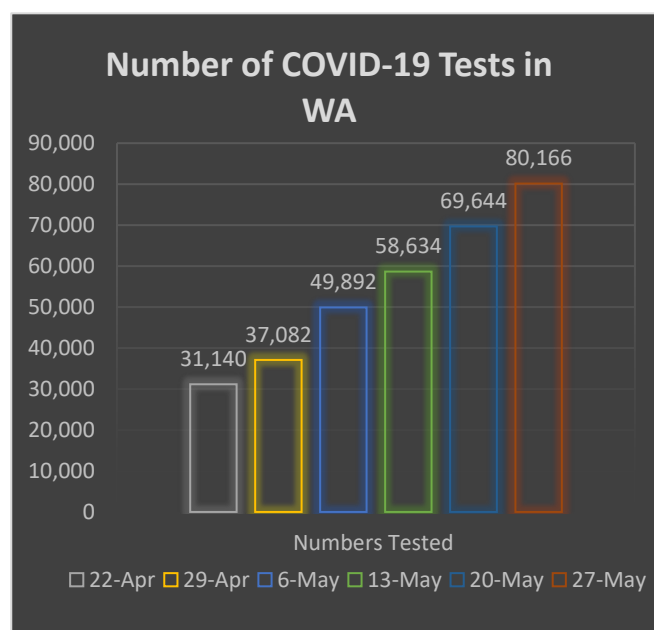
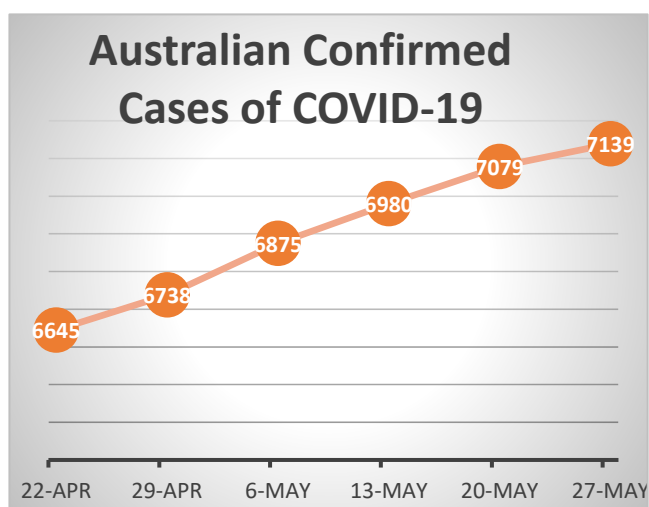
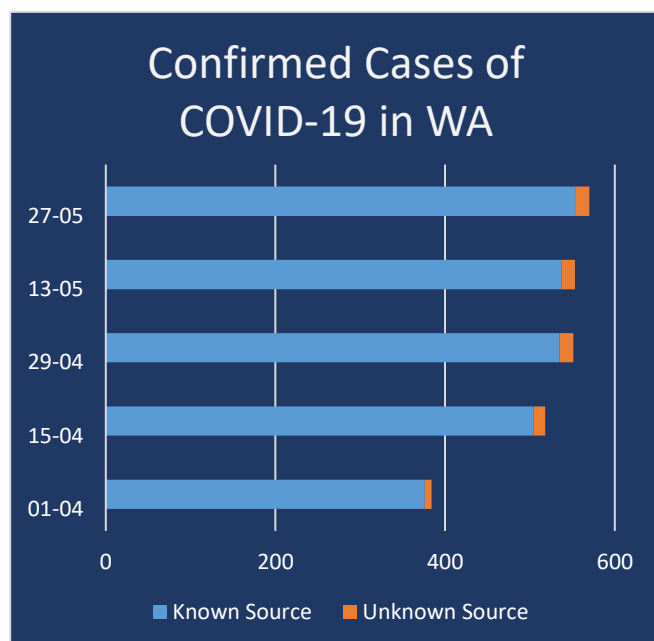
Daily Status, 5pm

There are **7139** cases of COVID-19 in Australia.
6 new cases since 5 pm yesterday.

Western Australia has had **570** cases – **0** new case since 5 pm yesterday. There are currently **12** active cases and **549** people have recovered.

There are currently **16** unknown sources. No new regional cases. There have been **65** regional cases in total and all have recovered. See chart below for regional breakdown.

Region	Active Cases	Cleared Cases	Total Cases
Kimberley	0	18	18
Pilbara	0	5	5
Mid-West	0	3	3
Goldfields	0	8	8
Wheatbelt	0	11	11
South West	0	11	11
Great Southern	0	9	9
	0	65	65



COVID 19

Member Support Team



Weekly Roundup

Another week, and WA has recorded 10 new cases of COVID-19 as well as 3 historical recovered cases raising the total by 13 in the past 7 days. 6 new cases were recorded yesterday from a live export ship docked in Fremantle, and a family of 4 from Victoria who had travelled from Doha to WA added to the total. WA are in phase 2 of the phase 4 “roadmap to recovery” and more regional borders will be opened on Friday 29th May just before the long weekend. The regional boundaries will be lifted, except for the Australian Government biosecurity zones, including the Kimberley region, parts of the Shire of East Pilbara and Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku. Restrictions on entering 274 remote Aboriginal communities will remain in place. See [here](#) for further information on travel zones.

Current Developments

Remote Aboriginal community digitally connected to metro medical experts

For the first time, patients in Bidiyadanga - Western Australia's largest remote Aboriginal community - have [access to medical specialists](#) in the metropolitan area at the touch of a button thanks to a partnership between the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS).

The partnership, which involves a 12-month trial of connection of the KAMS-run Bidiyadanga Health Clinic to the WACHS Command Centre, has already seen specialist emergency care accessed 28 times in the first five months.

Having access to the WACHS Command Centre enables KAMS clinicians to connect with Perth-based medical specialists almost instantly via videoconferencing equipment, assisting with the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

The 12-month trial is expected to provide a better understanding of the logistics, benefits and costs of delivering digital health services into more remote WA communities.

State Recovery Advisory Group to guide WA's COVID-19 recovery

The McGowan Government has established a top-level State Recovery Advisory Group to help lead Western Australia's recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Recovery Advisory Group includes representatives from business, industry, not-for-profit organisations, Unions WA, the public sector, local government and the community.

The group will provide high level and strategic advice on the impacts of COVID-19 and help to guide the development of the State Recovery Plan.

A key part of developing the State Recovery Plan

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will include a series of Ministerial roundtable discussions with these key stakeholders, face-to-face and virtual, to gather feedback on the draft Impact Statement and to inform the State Recovery Plan.

The community will be able to contribute their ideas through iThink (WA Public Sector) at ithink.wa.gov.au. Find out more information at <http://www.wa.gov.au>

Continued support for those in need with more meal deliveries

Chefs from Optus Stadium, RAC Arena and VenuesWest have come together to produce [20,000 packaged meals](#) to be distributed by OzHarvest to those who need it most.

Redeployed RAC Arena and HBF Stadium's full-time kitchen teams to Optus Stadium last month to assist with the preparation of individual frozen meals which are valued at \$55,000.

The meals will go to people across our State including those in need associated with Church of the Way and Salvation Army in Mandurah and Albany, as well as Feed the Children in Broome.

DETECT Snapshot testing to begin

People not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 from vulnerable groups in the community now

have the opportunity to be tested for the virus under the McGowan Government's [DETECT snapshot](#).

Healthcare workers, WA Police staff, meat workers, supermarket and retail staff, and hospitality workers who are asymptomatic can undergo a swab test for COVID-19 from Thursday May 28 to Wednesday June 10, 2020.

Western Australia continues to be in the enviable position of having no sustained community transmission and this series of testing will provide a better understanding of any COVID-19 that may be in the community.

Participation is voluntary and open to adults who work in the identified groups, selected mainly for their frequent interaction with the public during COVID-19 or where documented outbreaks have occurred in other jurisdictions.

Myth Buster

No. Hand dryers are not effective in killing the 2019-nCoV.

To protect yourself against the new coronavirus, you should frequently clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Once your hands are cleaned, you should dry them thoroughly by using paper towels or a warm air dryer.

Are hand dryers effective in killing the new coronavirus?



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Policy and Advocacy

The AHCWA Policy Team continue to assist in improving the COVID-19 response for Aboriginal people and their communities across the State.

The Policy Team is strongly advocating for more collaborative action on the State's COVID Recovery Plan based on the lessons learnt from the State's initial COVID-19 response. The team continues to advocate to the WA Department of Communities on key issues, including accommodation.

The National Broadband Network and related connectivity issues, as well as Telehealth, have been a focus.

The process of gathering information about Member Services' experiences with Telehealth, including community opinions of Telehealth, has commenced and will be a focal point for AHCWA in the coming months.

AHCWA has raised concern about the social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal people and the ACCHS workforce as a result of COVID-19 at the State and National level. This will continue to be a key area of concern.

AHCWA continues to seek clarity around all State and National funding for ACCHS as they respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

As border and travel restrictions lift across the state, AHCWA will be monitoring the situation closely and is ready to respond to issues, and support member services, as needs arise.

Clinical Information

Guidance for healthcare teams to support COVID-19 prevention and management

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a rapidly changing health policy environment. New COVID-19 Primary Health care Guidance recommendations which are being developed in response to specific questions arising from healthcare professionals are now available. The recommendations support healthcare teams in prevention and management of COVID-19 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our very own AHCWA PHMO Dr Marianne Wood has assisted in developing the recommendations which can be found [here](#).

The first of the recommendations which has been questioned many times through our Member Services is:

What is the best practice when transporting patients who do not have confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)?

- ***without fever or respiratory symptoms?***
- ***with fever or respiratory symptoms?***

See entire context, recommendations, rationales, related topics and references [here](#).

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Reconciliation Week Begins.

Pat Turner CEO of NACCHO has presented a speech to launch National Reconciliation Week “In this Together” and the new Coalition of Peaks Website.

See an excerpt of the speech below.

“I truly believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be impacted by the legacy of colonisation in every aspect of our lives.

But what also continues is our resilience amidst the adversity we face. When we face adversity together, we see stronger outcomes. Accordingly, today I would like to talk about the topic of ‘In This Together’.

I would like to focus on four aspects of what togetherness looks like currently for our people — aspects that we can and must build upon.

First, I want you all to know about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations came together from across the nation to form the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations.

Second, I want to discuss the unprecedented opportunity we have for genuine shared decision-making in the Partnership Agreement between the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Coalition of Peaks.

Third, I want to alert you to the negotiations now underway to finalise a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which came out of the Partnership Agreement that also advances this idea of ‘In this Together’.

Fourth, without engaging in any premature celebrations whatsoever, as we still have a long way to go, I will talk about the strong, coordinated work of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations that have come together from across Australia to successfully protect our people from COVID-19..

See [full speech here](#).



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Continuity of Care

Tips for maintaining other Healthcare needs of consumers during the pandemic. We have covered a lot of specialised topics on continuity of care – but just thought we would revisit some general dot points for maintaining the community's health:

- Follow up active recalls
- Ensure influenza and pneumococcal vaccination clients are entered into the recall system and vaccinations given
- Ensure that regular procedures e.g. bicillin for RHD and INRs are closely monitored and provided as normal
- Ensure results are checked and acted on
- Chronic disease clients are followed up (may need some plans to still monitor but lower their risk of exposure e.g. Telehealth)
- Maintain antenatal care, postnatal and child health services
- Continue STI treatments and screening
- Ensure mental health clients are receiving medication and being monitored.
- Review your recent referrals to specialists, radiology etc. and triage according to urgency
- Do medicines review on clients and refer to Pharmacist who can now do their review via Telehealth
- Keep community informed of Clinic opening times and practices.

Thank You.

We would like to thank and acknowledge our current funding bodies for their continued assistance and support throughout the pandemic and acknowledge their flexibility and understanding during the pandemic restrictions.

We would also like to acknowledge the Minderoo Foundation and BHP for their generosity with providing funding grants, PPE, resources and donations for our Member Services during this COVID-19 pandemic.

I would also like to thank Woodside Energy Ltd, in particular Jon Greenaway and Ashley Zohab for their kind donation of PPE masks that are being distributed to our Member Services.

You have all been a great support and your generosity is appreciated so much by the Aboriginal Health Sector during this difficult time.

And to all the staff at AHCWA, the CEO's and all of the workforce working in the ACCHS – we send our greatest thanks and acknowledge your efforts in keeping our Aboriginal people safe.

