

NECA MEMBER COVID-19 UPDATE

LATEST FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CORONAVIRUS STIMULUS PACKAGE

Since the Federal Government passed the Stimulus Package to help communities and business as we face the outbreak of the Coronavirus on 23 March, there have been no further updates.

2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS (25 March 2020)

Places of social gathering and Social Distancing

National Cabinet agreed to new and enhanced social distance measures, building on the existing measures that are in place. Further restrictions and closures that will take effect from midnight Wednesday 25 March include:

- Food courts to only serve via takeaway.
- Auction houses, real estate auctions and open house inspections will no longer take place.
- Outdoor and indoor markets (excluding food markets) will be addressed by state Government.
- Beauty therapists and massage parlours will close.
- Tanning, waxing and nail salons will close.
- Tattoo parlours will close
- Amusement parks and arcades will close.
- Play centres will close.
- Community and recreational centres, health clubs and fitness centres will close.
- Yoga, barre and spin classes will close.
- Saunas and wellness centres will close.
- Boot camps and personal training will be limited to 10 people maximum.
- Weddings will be limited to no more than five people (including celebrant and witnesses).
- Funerals will be limited to no more than 10 people.
- Family gatherings such as barbecues, birthdays and house parties will not be allowed.
- Hairdressers/barbers will be allowed to remain open with four-square-metre distancing requirement and 30-minute appointments only.
- Cinemas, nightclubs, casinos, gambling venues, adult entertainment venues, concert venues, stadiums all closed.
- Galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, libraries, community centres all closed.
- Non-essential facilities, community facilities such as halls, PCYCs and places of worship closed.
- Schools will remain open.

Ban on Australians travelling overseas

The Commonwealth Government is planning to implement a 'do not travel' ban on Australians travelling overseas under the Biosecurity Act 2015. This will help avoid travellers returning to Australia with coronavirus and the risks of spreading coronavirus to other countries.

Exemptions, which will be managed by the Australian Border Force, will apply to a range of categories of travellers, including for those citizens ordinarily resident overseas, where travel is essential or necessary, where travel is in our national interest, and on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.

This prohibition is aligned with the Government's decision to raise the Smartraveller Travel Advice to Level 4 - Do Not Travel overseas.

3. ADVOCACY UPDATE

NECA is calling for the federal government to take a holistic approach to supporting apprentices in these challenging times.

Recently the Federal Government announced a wage subsidy of 50% of an apprentice's or trainee's wage for up to 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. However, these measures are only available to small businesses employing fewer than 20 employees who retain an apprentice or trainee.

NECA calls for an immediate extension of these measures to all employers, irrespective of size. This includes Group Training Organisations which are significant employers of apprentices and are particularly exposed during these times.

[Link to media release](#)

LATEST STATE AND TERRITORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact your local NECA Chapter website for regular updates.