



06 July 2020

### **COVID-19 Update**

Since our last update on 12 June 2020 there have been a number of developments. While most states and territories are continuing to relax COVID-19 restrictions, Victoria is experiencing a significant outbreak, with 645 active cases and community transmission continuing to grow, (in-between 60-80 new cases have been registered every day for over a week). Several Melbourne suburbs have consequently been forced to re-enter lockdown.

Although a major enquiry is underway, preliminary genomic sequencing undertaken by researchers indicates that the outbreak may have started by a very small number of people circulating the virus through their families and households. There is also evidence indicating that people linked to these clusters have travelled to the Northern Territory and NSW demonstrating how quickly COVID-19 can be spread and how the actions of every single one of us can make a difference.

Wherever you are in Australia please stay vigilant and do what you can to minimise the risks to yourself and those around you.

In other news the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap is being considered by the Joint Council on Closing the Gap today, the Agreement includes the first refresh of the Closing the Gap targets since their introduction in 2008. For the first time in history the Agreement has been negotiated in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through representation by the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks). Late last year, the Coalition of Peaks led a comprehensive engagement process to inform the development of the Agreement.

The Agreement prioritises Indigenous-led decision making, community-controlled services, improved accountability and access to reliable local level data to support decision making. It is anticipated that after the Joint Council meeting today the Agreement will be tabled for endorsement during the next meeting of the National Cabinet. A report on the engagement process and more information on the Coalition of Peaks can be found [here](#).

Thanks to those who have participated in our recent forums and webinars. We value the work that you do.

Stay safe

The NATSIHWA Team