

12 June 2020

COVID-19 Update

The National Cabinet met on Friday to review progress in relation to lifting coronavirus restrictions across the country. In addressing the nation the Prime Minister advised that Australia is making good progress. The number of people contracting COVID-19 remains low and in regards to lifting restrictions all States and Territories are now moving towards stage three of the *3 Step Plan*. He reinforced that Australia is following a policy of suppression, not elimination and that outbreaks and an anticipated emergence of cases will not halt the further lifting of restrictions subject to medical advice.

The Prime Minister explained that the third step of the plan is where we start operating with minimal restrictions and adopting long-term COVIDSafe ways of living and working. Further information on the *3 Step Plan* and what it means to be in stage three can be found [here](#).

During the press conference a number of issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs were also raised. In this regard the Prime Minister advised that good progress was being made in regards to the Closing the Gap refresh, with new targets due to be agreed and announced next month. He reinforced that for the first time in history these targets had been developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Coalition of the Peaks, (of which NATSIHWA is a member).

The Black Lives Matter protests were also raised, with the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer both emphasising the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19. As an Indigenous organisation with a role in improving health outcomes we understand these risks too. – But, we also understand that racism and discrimination continues to impact adversely on the health and wellbeing of our people and we stand shoulder to shoulder with our community on these issues.

If you choose to protest please do what you can to minimise the risks to yourself and those around you. The COVID-19 virus is still present in our community. Wear a mask, practice social distancing, use hand sanitiser, and if you haven't done so already download the COVIDsafe App from the Apple App Store or Google Play to help health experts track and trace your contacts if required.

Please be assured that through our role on boards, committees, working groups and alliances at the national level we are doing what we can to address racism and discrimination. In this regard we are involved in a number of initiatives to promote and ensure a health system that is culturally safe for our people working in it and those accessing care. If you would like to find out more about what we are doing in this space please don't hesitate to give us a call on **1800 983 984**.

Stay safe

The NATSIHWA Team

