



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/3

27 March 2020

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

Oral Update	SM20/0266	CORONAVIRUS HEALTH UPDATE
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The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ('the National Cabinet'):

1. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on the G20 Leaders' discussions overnight and the development of a third Commonwealth Government economic package.
2. Noted the oral presentation by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Treasury Department on the potential economic and workforce implications arising from different levels of social distancing restrictions and business closures.
3. Agreed that Treasurers, through the Heads of Treasuries process, share and refine work on the economic impacts of COVID-19 responses, including additional analysis of the interactions between health and economic assumptions and modelling.
4. Agreed:
 - (a) assistance provided to commercial tenants should be guided by the underlying principle of 'business hibernation'
 - (b) Treasurers be tasked with finalising agreed proposals on commercial and residential tenancies for National Cabinet consideration at its next meeting.

5. Noted the Coronavirus health update by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and his advice that returning international travellers remain the most significant vector for the spread of Coronavirus in Australia.

6. Agreed that:

- (a) as soon as possible, but no later than 11:59pm AEDT Saturday 28 March 2020, all travellers arriving in Australia will be required to undertake mandatory 14 day self-isolation at designated facilities (for example, a hotel) in the city in which they entered Australia, notwithstanding their state of residence
- (b) travellers will be transported directly to designated facilities after appropriate immigration, customs and enhanced health checks
- (c) designated facilities will be determined by the relevant State or Territory government; while ordinarily they will be in the city of entry where the traveller has cleared immigration, facilities in other areas may be used in extenuating circumstances
- (d) these requirements will be implemented under State and Territory legislation and will be enforced by State and Territory governments, with the support of the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) where necessary and according to need across Australia
- (e) States and Territories would meet the costs (other than for ABF and ADF support) and determine any contributions required from travellers arriving within their jurisdictions.

7. Agreed that the ADF will begin assisting State and Territory governments to undertake quarantine compliance checks of those who are required to be in mandatory isolation after returning from overseas, with enforcement remaining the responsibility of States and Territories.

8. Agreed that the Commonwealth would ensure ABF declaration card information on returning international travellers who reside in jurisdictions other than their city of arrival is provided to the appropriate jurisdiction.

9. Noted:

- (a) the advice provided by all jurisdictions on their current enforcement regimes and activities and agreed the importance of continued strong enforcement of existing social isolation and social distancing measures
- (b) the advice from the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland Chief Health Officers on next step measures.

10. Agreed:

- (a) Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria will develop options for further restrictions to support social distancing and reduce community transmission for consideration at the next meeting
- (b) Western Australia will convene a discussion with Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory to consider options for further restrictions that might be appropriate for jurisdictions with different epidemiological and geographic circumstances
- (c) the importance of ensuring that any further restrictions on business be accompanied by further economic support measures.

11. Noted:

- (a) the further advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee in relation to the supply of intensive care unit (ICU) beds nation-wide and surge capacity (including related equipment, consumables and workforce)
- (b) the CMO's advice that ICU surge capacity is likely to meet predicted need.

12. Agreed that a paper setting out principles and protocols for the allocation and sharing of critical medical supplies be provided to the National Cabinet for consideration at its next meeting.

13. Agreed the statement on schools.

14. Agreed that States and Territories urgently finalise arrangements with private hospitals under the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement and report on outcomes at the National Cabinet meeting on 29 March 2020.

Cabinet Secretary

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