



Australian Government

SM20/0168/NATCAB

15 March 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE**

### **NATIONAL CABINET**

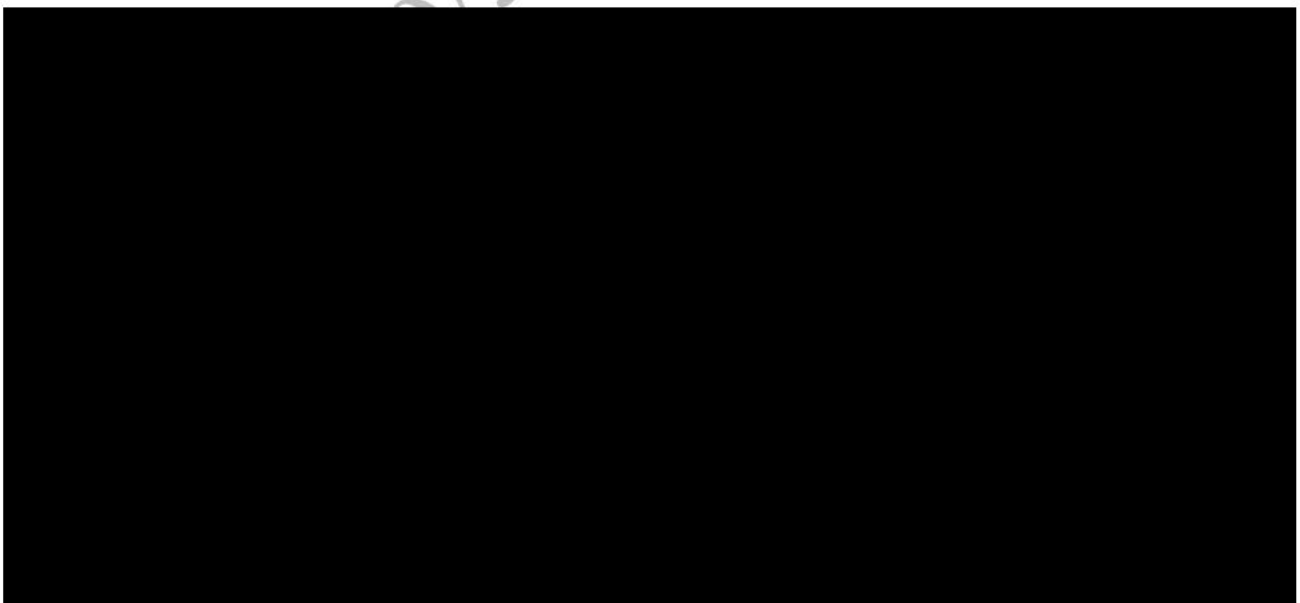
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<b>Other</b>	<b>SM20/0168</b>	<b>NATIONAL CABINET FOR AUSTRALIA'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE</b>
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The National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response ('National Cabinet') agreed to:

1. The Terms of Reference for the National Cabinet (Attachment A to this minute refers) and the establishment of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) as sub-committees of the National Cabinet.



8. The National Cabinet will meet again on 17 March 2020 to consider this AHPPC advice.

9. The NCM meet to:

- (a) coordinate arrangements for entry to and exit from remote communities, noting that the Northern Territory has commenced internal protocols that may be the basis for adoption by other jurisdictions and the NCM will obtain this information from the Northern Territory and share it as the basis for discussion

- (b) coordinate a consistent position with respect to school closures based on existing practices in NSW and Victoria
- (c) consider issues affecting access to supermarkets for elderly and vulnerable populations, including options for addressing these issues.

10. The National Cabinet will also meet again on 20 March 2020 to discuss issues relating to schools and any reports back from the NCM on key issues.

Cabinet Secretary

AAT 2020/5875 and 2020/5876

## **National Cabinet for Australia's Coronavirus Response**

The Council of Australian Governments agreed on 13 March 2020 to establish a National Cabinet to coordinate Australia's Coronavirus Response across State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government ('National Cabinet').

### **Purpose**

The National Cabinet will consider and coordinate national Coronavirus preparedness and response measures to deal with the health, economic, societal and public safety impacts of the virus. It will aim to ensure agreed measures are implemented and communicated as consistently and effectively as possible nation-wide.

### **Membership**

The National Cabinet will comprise the Prime Minister (Chair) and State and Territory First Ministers.

It will be supported by the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and his State and Territory counterparts.

The National Cabinet will provide strategic oversight of, and be supported by, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) and the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM).

Expert advisers will be co-opted as appropriate.

### **Operating principles**

The National Cabinet will operate according to longstanding conventions of Cabinet government, including the guiding principles of collective responsibility and solidarity.

All proceedings and documentation of the National Cabinet will remain strictly confidential. To this end the National Cabinet will be constituted as a Cabinet Office Policy Committee, as provided for in the Australian Government Cabinet Handbook (13th edition).



The National Cabinet does not derogate from the sovereign authority and powers of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory government. The Commonwealth and the States and Territories, as appropriate, remain responsible for the implementation of responses to the Coronavirus.

For maximum effect, the decisions of the Committee should be endorsed by the Cabinet of each jurisdiction.

Formal Cabinet processes, including agendas, papers for consideration, note takers and minutes, will support the operation of the National Cabinet.

#### **Secretariat support**

The Commonwealth Cabinet Office will provide secretariat support to the National Cabinet, in collaboration with State and Territory Cabinet Secretariat support areas. Note takers will be the Commonwealth Cabinet Secretary, a senior official from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and a senior official nominated by the States and Territories.

#### **Meeting arrangements**

The National Cabinet will meet weekly on Friday at 10.00am AESDT/AEDT by telepresence or in person. Ad hoc meetings will be convened by the Chair as required to respond to urgent developments.

Agendas will be developed between the Prime Minister and First Ministers, based on advice from the secretariat.

Agendas and papers will be circulated by the secretariat through an appropriately secure system accessible to both the Commonwealth and States and Territories.

Wherever possible, papers will be circulated and comments sought from all jurisdictions prior to the meetings of the National Cabinet. Comments will be circulated to all members in advance of meetings.

These arrangements may be varied if urgent operational requirements dictate.



**Australian Government**

**SM20/0266/NATCAB/16**

**29 May 2020**

## **CABINET MINUTE**

### **NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted all jurisdictions have signed the National Health Reform Agreement and thanked Health Ministers and Treasurers for their work on the Agreement.
2. Noted the oral update by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) on the latest epidemiological data.
3. Noted and agreed to the publication of:
  - (a) the final 'Australian National Disease Surveillance Plan' for COVID-19
  - (b) 27 May 2020 modelling by the Doherty Institute
  - (c) 'Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Statement on Tobacco use, E-cigarette use and COVID-19'
  - (d) the 25 May 2020 update on the precedent conditions.
4. Noted:
  - (a) the 'Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan (PHIP)' report for the period 11 to 24 May 2020
  - (b) the advice that, while disease surveillance data indicate low levels of infection and decreasing trends, insufficient time has elapsed to be able to fully measure and assess the impacts of relaxing public health related measures.



5. Agreed to the publication of the public-facing summary version of the PHIP report.
6. Noted the oral updates by:
  - (a) all jurisdictions on progress implementing the Three-Step Framework for a COVID-Safe Australia
  - (b) relevant jurisdictions on internal border restrictions.
7. Endorsed the 'Principles for COVID-19 Public Transport Operations' developed by the AHPPC and noted the updated AHPPC advice on 'The Use of Masks by the Public in the Community'.
8. Agreed States and Territories wishing to do so will commence charging international arrivals for mandatory quarantining, with jurisdictions responsible for implementation.
9. Noted all jurisdictions endorsed out-of-session the AHPPC paper entitled 'Updated advice on distancing requirements in Early Childhood and Learning Centres'.
10. Agreed:
  - (a) AHPPC advice commissioned by National Cabinet will continue to be formally considered by National Cabinet prior to publication
  - (b) AHPPC health advice initiated by the AHPPC or commissioned through other mechanisms will henceforth be considered by Senior Officials in Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) meetings or out-of-session, with:
    - (i) the Chair of SOM to recommend to the Cabinet Secretary that AHPPC advice be scheduled for formal consideration by National Cabinet where SOM agrees National Cabinet should review the health advice
    - (ii) all other health advice being endorsed by SOM prior to publication.

11. Agreed National Cabinet will next meet on 12 June 2020 and will consider:
- (a) an economic update by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury
  - (b) AHPPC advice:
    - (i) on the impacts of relaxing public health related measures and the timetable for future relaxation
    - (ii) clarifying the specific measures for potential easing under Step 3 of the framework.

*Original authorised by*

Cabinet Secretary





Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/16\_EXTRACT

29 May 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE**

### **NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

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7. Endorsed the 'Principles for COVID-19 Public Transport Operations' developed by the AHPPC and noted the updated AHPPC advice on 'The Use of Masks by the Public in the Community'.

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(Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Extract: paragraph 7 only)



**Australian Government**

**SM20/0266/NATCAB/16\_EXTRACT/3**

**29 May 2020**

**CABINET MINUTE**  
**NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

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8. Agreed States and Territories wishing to do so will commence charging international arrivals for mandatory quarantining, with jurisdictions responsible for implementation.

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(AGD Extract: Paragraph 8 only)



**Australian Government**

**SM20/0266/NATCAB/16\_EXTRACT/2**

**29 May 2020**

## **CABINET MINUTE**

### **NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

8. Agreed States and Territories wishing to do so will commence charging international arrivals for mandatory quarantining, with jurisdictions responsible for implementation.

(Department of Home Affairs Extract: paragraph 8 only)





**Australian Government**

**SM20/0613/NATCAB**

**29 May 2020**

## **CABINET MINUTE**

### **NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0613</b>	<b>FUTURE OF NATIONAL CABINET</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the oral update and placemat provided by the Prime Minister on the Future of National Cabinet and reformed arrangements for the architecture of Federal-State relations.
2. Agreed:
  - (a) National Cabinet has made an important contribution to minimising the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 and will continue to pursue reforms in the national interest beyond the pandemic
  - (b) National Cabinet's agenda will remain confined to a limited number of issues at any one time to enable it to maintain focus and purpose
  - (c) the initial focus of National Cabinet will be job creation as the economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic
  - (d) National Cabinet will be able to establish and task National Cabinet Reform Committees to progress priority reform issues and those Committees will:
    - (i) be led by a Commonwealth representative
    - (ii) report directly to the National Cabinet
  - (e) National Cabinet will continue to engage directly with experts relevant to the issue being considered, including existing Expert Advisory Groups such as the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and Heads of Treasuries and additional groups as appropriate

- (f) National Cabinet will continue as a Federal Cabinet Office Policy Committee operating under Cabinet rules, with National Cabinet Reform Committees also operating under Cabinet rules
- (g) the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) will report to National Cabinet and will:
  - (i) operate under Cabinet rules
  - (ii) take responsibility for managing all Federal-State funding agreements, including National Partnership Agreements (NPAs)
  - (iii) initiate a review of all NPAs with the intent of rationalising and decreasing the number of Agreements
- (h) National Cabinet, together with CFFR and the Australian Local Government Association, will constitute the National Federation Reform Council (the Council), which will:
  - (i) meet annually face-to-face
  - (ii) be able to establish Taskforces to support the Council on priority national federation issues, such as Closing the Gap and Women's Safety
- (i) existing Ministerial Forums and Ministerial Regulatory Councils will be reviewed and rationalised and, if retained, will be expected to resolve issues themselves and not have a direct connection with the National Cabinet
- (j) all NPAs will be transferred to CFFR for management and future funding arrangements attached to issues addressed by Ministerial Forums and Regulatory Councils will be negotiated with and by CFFR
- (k) National Cabinet will:
  - (i) continue to meet every two weeks while it manages the impacts of COVID-19
  - (ii) shift to monthly meetings at an appropriate time
  - (iii) continue to meet via telepresence with at least one face-to-face National Cabinet meeting a year
  - (iv) retain discretion to vary these arrangements as required

- (l) to consider further:
  - (i) the number, focus and terms of reference of the National Cabinet Reform Committees referred to in paragraph 2(d) above
  - (ii) the reset of the Ministerial Forums and Ministerial Regulatory Councils referred to in paragraph 2(i) above
  - (iii) the National Federation Reform Council and related Taskforces.

*Original authorised by*

Cabinet Secretary

Agreed as Final by the Prime Minister