

SA COVID-19 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting 13: 02 June 2020

Actions:

Reference	Action
4.14	Step 3 would return to the Transition Committee for agreement on Friday 5 June.
5.7	SAPOL to complete travel into SA pre-approval form in advance of Step 3.
6.3	SAPOL and SA Health to plan and cost logistics of supervised hotel quarantine for international arrivals.
6.7	SA Health to progress an exemption for TAB from current Public Activities direction in effect for Step 2.
6.9	SA Health to progress exemptions for multi court community sports venues.
6.12	CE DHW to contact Zoos SA and advise that the patron limits specified in the Emergency Management Direction apply to their premises until at least 19 June.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 All members present.
- 1.2 Dr Chris Lease and Mr Mike Wait SC joined as guests.
- 1.3 Mr David Reynolds declared a potential conflict of interest owing to his wife's position on the Board of the Grange Golf Club and ownership of interstate property. These interests were noted but did not preclude participation in discussion.

2. National Cabinet Update

- 2.1 CE DPC advised of forthcoming Commonwealth support packages for particular industries.
- 2.2 The risk of casual workers attending work while unwell was discussed and remains an issue for Commonwealth resolution.

3. AHPPC Update

- 3.1 CPHO advised of planned discussions on the density requirement, and that the deputies had considered the 1 per 2 sqm rule implemented by WA and considered it insufficient to ensure adequate distancing.

3.2 CHPO and Commissioner provided an update on onward traveller exemptions and the operationalisation of the new process.

4. Approach to Step 3

4.1 The Committee discussed the tabled paper, focused on option 1.

4.2 The Committee noted that the approach to the lifting of restrictions could not be considered in isolation from the quarantine requirements for domestic travel. With each week there is more and more confidence that there are no cases in South Australia, and accordingly the greatest threat is from an imported case from interstate. There will also always be a threat from international arrivals. As a result, if border restrictions remain in place, restrictions can be eased further in South Australia as we limit the risk of an infection taking hold rapidly in larger crowds. However, if travel restrictions are eased from areas with present cases of community transmission, it will be necessary to continue to limit gathering sizes, so that any imported case could be easily contained with smaller numbers of close contacts.

4.3 The Committee noted economic advice that increasing public confidence is necessary to economic recovery, and that while some businesses were open consumers and investors remained nervous.

4.4 The Committee discussed the public expectation that more restrictions would be eased in SA before any interstate travel was allowed without quarantine.

4.5 The Committee noted that it would be possible to consider removing the quarantine requirements for jurisdictions on a state- or territory-wide basis where they had 3 weeks without community transmission.

4.6 The Committee noted that the economic impact was likely in tourism and could also be achieved by encouraging South Australians to holiday in the state.

4.7 The Committee noted further work was underway by AHPPC on the density requirement and that this would be factored into our approach to Step 3, and further advice would return to the Committee on Friday for consideration.

4.8 The Committee agreed in principle to the broad outline of Step 3 as contained in Option 1, including:

- 250 max indoor gatherings/venue
- 500 max outdoor gatherings/venue
- Maintenance of density requirement of 1 person per 4 sqm
- Quarantine requirements lifted for travellers from jurisdictions with 3 weeks of no community transmission
- Move to a pre-approval system for exemptions with an online form which requires justification of critical skills etc
- Continued restrictions and/or further work on:

- Indoor nightclubs
 - Major events/conventions
 - Gatherings >500 for foreseeable future
 - Consider cap on weddings
 - Shisha/hookah bars
 - Music festivals
- 4.9 The CPHO noted that it was very difficult to predict the future state, and that reflection on the AHPPC consideration from several weeks ago showed that more was now considered safer earlier than had been anticipated at the time.
- 4.10 The Commissioner noted a risk that continuing to restrict some activities may result in illegal, unregulated activity – eg underground nightclubs
- 4.11 The Committee discussed an indicative start date for Step 3 of 3 July, and noted the formal and published intention to review each stage at 2 weeks, making the Committee’s review process and decision point for a date to commence Step 3 Tuesday 16 June.
- 4.12 The CPHO noted Step 3 would not be the end of the stepped approach to easing of restrictions, with further consideration for a Step 4 including larger crowds and events.
- 4.13 CE DHW noted that it would be desirable to secure national agreement on the activities that would be in Step 4, or would remain restricted indefinitely.
- 4.14 Action: Step 3 would return to the Transition Committee for agreement on Friday 5 June.**

5. Domestic quarantine requirements

- 5.1 The Committee combined discussion on this item with the above item.
- 5.2 The Crown Solicitor noted the need for a robust, defensible basis against which to determine from which states travellers are and are not required to quarantine, and the increased interest in this issue arising from the High Court challenge to WA’s border restrictions.
- 5.3 The Committee noted that it would be necessary to apply criteria about local transmission but also about local border controls in the jurisdictions for which the quarantine requirements may be relaxed. For example, as NSW, Victoria and ACT allow free travel between them, from an infection risk perspective they are essentially one large contiguous area that is not meaningfully divisible in respect of determining their local transmission rates.
- 5.4 The CPHO noted that as our greatest risk is from an imported case, further work needs to be done to better monitor self-declared essential travellers who are exempt from quarantine requirements.

- 5.5 The Commissioner indicated that SAPOL were developing an online form for essential travellers to secure pre-approval to enter SA, and the Committee noted this process would need to be resolved in order to have confidence in further easing of restrictions at Step 3.
- 5.6 The Commissioner noted that if the restrictions only applied to some jurisdictions the compliance monitoring and border checks could be enhanced.
- 5.7 **Action: SAPOL to complete travel into SA pre-approval form in advance of Step 3.**

6. Any other business

- 6.1 The Committee noted the intention of Singapore Airlines to resume weekly commercial passenger flights, and discussed the proposed approach to the return of international students.
- 6.2 The Committee noted the intention that international arrivals (including students) would undertake supervised hotel quarantine, which would be charged to the traveller with their consent prior to departure from their port of origin. SA Health and SAPOL will jointly resolve logistics and determine appropriate charge.
- 6.3 **Action: SAPOL and SA Health to plan and cost logistics of supervised hotel quarantine for international arrivals.**
- 6.4 The Committee discussed correspondence received from TAB and whether any exemption could be granted that would allow TAB to operate.
- 6.5 The Committee noted that Dr Chris Lease was working with TAB on safe reopening.
- 6.6 The Committee agreed that on the basis of public health advice TAB may be able to safely operate at Step 2, provided density, physical distancing and hygiene measures were followed, and that a specific exemption would be required.
- 6.7 **Action: SA Health to progress an exemption for TAB from current Public Activities direction in effect for Step 2.**
- 6.8 The Committee discussed a paper on community sport presented by Dr Chris Lease, and noted the intention to issue specific exemptions for “multi court” premises that allowed safe use above the 80 per premises limit. This would broadly be achieved by the exemption specifying that each separate court would be a “place” within the meaning of the Emergency Management direction.
- 6.9 **Action: SA Health to progress exemptions for multi court community sports venues.**
- 6.10 The Committee further discussed the maximum patrons per premises limit as it applies to the Zoo. The Committee noted advice that increasing the number of patrons on site at any one time could be safely managed, but that this must be balanced against the need to ensure consistency with like venues.
- 6.11 Consistent with similar venues, the Committee agreed Dr Chris McGowan would contact the zoo and advise that they could achieve desired patron numbers and stay within the limits set by the direction by implementing a booking system. As

previously discussed, this issue will be considered as part of consideration of the “large rooms” issue for resolution by 19 June.

- 6.12 **Action: CE DHW to contact Zoos SA and advise that the patron limits specified in the Emergency Management Direction apply to their premises until at least 19 June.**