

4 September 2020

COVID-19 Transition Committee Minutes – meeting 40

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. All members present.
- 1.2. The committee welcomed Mr Don Frater, Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Health and Wellbeing as a new regular guest. Ms Ingrid Norman and AC Noel Bamford also attended as guests.
- 1.3. Ms Kelly Biggins acted as Secretariat for this meeting.

2. AHPPC Update

- 2.1. CPHO provided an update on further discussions around the definition of 'Hot Spots'. It was noted that all States and Territories use the term differently based on the broader COVID situation in their jurisdiction. The Commonwealth government is seeking to find a common definition that can be applied nationally and used, in part, for border control measures. The committee discussed the flow-on effect of such a definition and the impact for SA's response to outbreaks.
- 2.2. CPHO provided a brief jurisdictional update noting that transmissibility in SA has decreased based on the community's sensitivity to the current situation in Victoria. There is potential for NSW cases to increase as a result of a number of cases arising from community transmission. Victoria is looking good but the reduction in cases has slowed. SA Health noted that the case fatality rate in Victoria is constant which means that they aren't detecting a lot of new cases.
- 2.3. CE, DPC provided an update on the expected agenda for National Cabinet this week.

3. Economic Update

- 3.1. CE DTF discussed the recent economic update provided by the Australian government noting that Australia is now in recession.
- 3.2. The Committee discussed a range of other economic issues including:
 - 3.2.1. Internet job vacancies: noting they are the highest they've been since the beginning of the year – higher than February.
 - 3.2.2. Homebuilder Program: most SA home building companies have closed their books. The committee discussed the possible impacts of this on state economic stimulus measures.
- 3.3. CE DTI provided the Committee a general update about international markets and Australia's current trade situation.
- 3.4. SA Health noted the recent uptick in exemption requests relating to interstate relocations.

4. Border restrictions

- 4.1. The committee discussed border restrictions and quarantine requirements for travellers from ACT. There is no change to SA's public health advice and therefore the committee is unable to provide conclusive advice to the State Coordinator in relation to opening the border with ACT.
- 4.2. SAPOL provided an update on police escorts for travellers entering SA by road who are required to enter mandatory hotel quarantine. SAPOL have advised that people crossing the border by vehicle are now being escorted twice daily - at 10am and 2pm. The State Coordinator will be providing an update to media about this matter today.
- 4.3. The committee discussed the need to be prepared for triaging large numbers of requests for hotel quarantine when the Victorian borders begin to re-open.

5. Public Activity Restrictions

- 5.1. The Committee agreed to increase limits/relax restrictions in relation to public activities as follows:
 - 5.1.1. Weddings – 150 max
 - 5.1.2. Funerals – 150 max
 - 5.1.3. Private gatherings – will remain the same (50 in home, 100 in other locations)
- 5.2. It was noted that SA Health will consider revising advice about working from home requirements. The committee agreed that SA Health should consider including expectations for COVID-safe workplaces such as encouraging staggered start and finish times.
- 5.3. The committee discussed and agreed a request from Adelaide Oval to scale up attendance numbers over the coming weeks – gradually increasing from 15,000, up to an eventual 25,000, subject to ongoing compliance with their approved COVID Management Plan.
- 5.4. The Committee discussed vertical drinking proposals including the service of patrons at bars where food preparation occurs nearby. It was agreed that the public health advice does not support moving to stand-up drinking yet. The Committee also noted that normal food safety rules apply where establishments have open kitchens and they are seeking to seat patrons at an adjacent bar. The Committee will reconsider stand-up drinking at a future meeting.
- 5.5. SA Health and SAPOL provided an update in relation to transport driver testing. The Committee noted that there is no change to the current requirements. SA is testing approximately 2000 truck drivers per week. The Committee discussed the impacts on SA of the current Victorian testing protocols, noting that SA requires transport drivers to have undertaken a COVID test within the last 7 days but VIC is not testing people unless they are symptomatic. SA testing aligns with the national policy on freight workers.

ACTION: CE DPC to call Chris Eccles in Victoria to discuss this.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1. The committee briefly noted that SA Health continues to work with event organisers from the NRL and the pageant on proposals for staging these events later in the year.