



8 September 2020

# COVID-19 Transition Committee

## Meeting 41

Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. Dr Chris Lease attended as Acting Chief Public Health Officer in Professor Spurrier's absence.
- 1.2. Ms Ingrid Norman, Dr Evan Everest, Dr Mike Cusak and AC Noel Bamford attended as guests.
- 1.3. Mr Rick Perse, CE, Department for Education attended as a guest for the entire meeting.
- 1.4. Ms Kelly Biggins acted as Secretariat for this meeting.

### 2. AHPPC Update

- 2.1. The A/CPHO provided an update on the Victorian roadmap for lifting restrictions and the modelling used to inform this. The Committee briefly discussed opportunities for reviewing how SA treats regional Victoria in the future.
- 2.2. A/CPHO and SA Health representatives provided a jurisdictional update for NSW, VIC and QLD. The recent outbreak related to Ipswich Hospital employees has shown that the infection was transmitted 72 hours before the onset of symptoms. The Committee noted AHPPC's intention to review national guidelines to accommodate this new information about the infection transmission window.
- 2.3. The Committee noted that it is expected that 'Hot Spots' will be an item for discussion at the next National Cabinet meeting.

### 3. Economic Update

- 3.1. CE DTI provided a brief economic update noting that SA is performing slightly better than the national average on a number of indicators.

### 4. Border restrictions

- 4.1. The committee discussed the possibility for re-opening the border with ACT. It was noted that SA maintains a watching brief over the community transmission situation in NSW. The public health advice remains unchanged. The Committee will consider this item again at a future meeting.
- 4.2. In anticipation of NSW and ACT border re-opening, the Committee discussed options for treatment of those NSW travellers part-way through quarantine when the restrictions are

lifted. SA Health representatives will raise this issue with the CPHO in anticipation of future Committee discussions.

- 4.3. The Committee discussed SA's contact tracing capability and capacity. It was noted that work is being undertaken to review the associated logistics, training and technology to support our system.

## **5. Public Activity Restrictions**

- 5.1. The State Coordinator noted that there has been mostly positive feedback in relation to the most recent changes to restrictions.
- 5.2. The Committee discussed vertical drinking. SAPOL noted that they had met with the Australian Hotels Association, Clubs SA and Business SA about this matter. The Committee discussed the importance of reviewing restrictions strategically and holistically with a view to creating a new normal that can remain in place if there are future outbreaks in SA. The Committee discussed the implications of taking a 'chiselling effect' approach to lifting restrictions. There is no change to the public health advice at this time.
- 5.3. SA Health noted the need to look closely at the Victorian government's roadmap for lifting restrictions with a view to understanding future implications for SA.
- 5.4. CE DoE addressed the committee in relation to an alternative proposal for the Schoolies Festival. Cabinet has tasked this issue to the Committee for consideration. The Committee discussed the proposal and a range of alternatives, noting examples of what other jurisdictions are doing. SAPOL noted the importance of trying to anchor any event to a short span of time to ensure resources can be managed.
- 5.5. The Committee discussed the need for a harm minimisation approach – with a clear focus on providing additional health and safety support. The Committee agreed that, on balance, this is an appropriate step to take. SA Health, Education and SAPOL will progress development of a proposal for Cabinet's consideration.