

SA COVID-19 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting 49: 09 October 2020

Actions:

Reference	Action
4.9	A proposal on risk-appropriate restrictions for close border communities to be provided to a future meeting.
5.1	Meetings to be scheduled once per week, with additional meetings to be scheduled on an ad hoc basis when needed.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Mr Don Frater attended for Dr Chris McGowan. Ms Leonie Muldoon was an apology. All remaining members present.
- 1.2 Dr Evan Everest, Ms Ingrid Norman and AC Noel Bamford attended as guests.

2. AHPPC update

- 2.1 CPHO noted the AHPPC meeting schedule has reduced to twice a week.
- 2.2 CPHO provided the Committee with an update on the possible use of rapid antigen tests, which are not as accurate as PCR tests but able to turnaround quick results. This could provide an additional level of risk mitigation for overseas travellers required to leave quarantine for essential work.
- 2.3 CPHO provided the Committee with an update on cases in NSW. CPHO advised that the risk of continuing quarantine-free entry from NSW was acceptable for now but would be watched closely.
- 2.4 The Committee noted there may be community anxiety about the potential of case importation from NSW and communications should be clear that the situation is under close scrutiny but acceptable at this time.
- 2.5 [REDACTED]
- 2.6 The Committee noted that Alan Finkel would be undertaking a review of contact tracing for all states and territories.

3. Economic update

- 3.1 The Committee noted highlights of the Federal budget.
- 3.2 CE DTF advised that single touch payroll data is very strong, with wages returning to pre-pandemic levels in South Australia.
- 3.3 The Committee discussed the balance between activity restrictions and travel restrictions to ensure a robust economy, noting that reduced travel restrictions is more favourable for economic recovery.

4. Travellers arriving from Victoria

- 4.1 CPHO provided the Committee with detail on Victoria's thresholds and activity levels as it moves out of strict lockdown.
- 4.2 The "last step" of the Victorian roadmap as provided includes public gatherings of 50, residential gatherings of 20, seated hospitality, retail and phased return to sport. CPHO noted that this "last step" is still significantly more constrained than South Australia's current restrictions.
- 4.3 CPHO noted it will be important to observe case numbers in Victoria once restrictions ease noting that cases remain persistent in certain settings including health care.
- 4.4 Accordingly, the CPHO recommended waiting until 14 days after Victoria moves to Stage 3, if Victorian cases are steady or decreasing, allowing home quarantine for travellers arriving from Victoria. However, this would require robust enforcement and compliance measures.
- 4.5 The Committee discussed distinguishing between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria was challenging without any direct assurance about the effectiveness of the Melbourne travel zone.
- 4.6 The Committee also discussed the management of incoming travellers at the airport, noting the highest number of arrivals is now from NSW.
- 4.7 SAPOL noted Australian Border Force are withdrawing support at the airport, along with the ADF withdrawing support at border check points. The Australian Border Force withdrawal will mean that self-declaration will be the only ability for SA authorities to identify onward overseas travellers.
- 4.8 The Committee noted the need to restore travel in close border communities, including to allow movement of farm equipment.
- 4.9 Action: A proposal will be developed and put to the Committee at a future meeting.

5. Any other business

- 5.1 The Committee agreed to reduce the meeting schedule to once per week, with additional meetings to be called on an ad hoc basis as required.