

SA COVID-19 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting 54: 10 November

Actions:

Reference	Action
5.4	An additional meeting to be held Friday 13 November.

Outcomes:

Reference	Action
4.2	The process for Government of South Australia endorsement of overseas arrivals will be centrally managed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
4.3	The Committee agreed the Tennis Australia proposal could not be supported.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Mr David Reynolds was an apology for the meeting. All other members were present.
- 1.2 Dr Evan Everest, Mr Don Frater, Ms Jane Cox and AC Noel Bamford attended as guests.

2. AHPPC update

- 2.1 CPHO discussed the prioritisation of overseas arrivals within the hotel quarantine capacity limit, and noted that the Commonwealth prioritise the return of vulnerable Australians.
- 2.2 Accordingly, any additional arrivals need to be considered for alternative arrangements where it is safe and possible to do so. Models of cohort quarantine onsite in student accommodation are being explored to support the return of international students in addition to the returning Australians accommodated in the cap.
- 2.3 Returning travellers in hotel quarantine continue to test positive for COVID-19, some on their last test on day 12. This indicates that they may have been infected on the flight, and restarts the isolation period, further restricting available hotel quarantine capacity.
- 2.4 Increasing positive cases in overseas arrivals also presents a risk of infection spreading to medi-hotel staff. Procedures are being reviewed and will include

greater discipline in PPE use. Options to routinely test staff at these facilities are being explored.

- 2.5 CPHO noted AHPPC discussion on public activities and live entertainment which will be considered by National Cabinet.
- 2.6 CPHO noted the WA experience with large events with live music and alcohol where marshals were unable to enforce compliance. WA will also be introducing QR code attendance records for hospitality settings in coming weeks.
- 2.7 CPHO provided epidemiological updates for NSW and Victoria that indicated comprehensive sewerage surveillance and ability to identify case origins in NSW.

3. Economic update

- 3.1 CE DTI noted positive economic trends towards pre-pandemic conditions.

4. Overseas arrivals

- 4.1 Australian Border Force requires state government endorsement to issue a visa to non-Australian essential overseas travellers.
- 4.2 The Committee agreed that this process should be centralised to ensure consistency and managed by DPC.
- 4.3 CPHO advised that Tennis Australia are seeking approval to bring in international tennis players for a tournament. The Committee discussed available hotel quarantine capacity and noted that accommodating such a proposal would require prioritising these travellers over returning vulnerable Australians due to the volume of travellers proposed. The Committee agreed to write to Tennis Australia indicating that the proposal cannot be supported as it would displace returning vulnerable Australians in South Australia.

5. Cross Border Travel

- 5.1 The Committee discussed the successive days without cases in Victoria, in comparison to New South Wales. CPHO noted that Victorian activities remain highly restricted, including compulsory mask use, limits of 10 people for activities such as gyms etc.
- 5.2 The Committee noted NSW intends to allow travellers from Victoria without quarantine from 23 November, and Queensland and NT will allow travellers from Victoria from early December. However, NSW would remain at their current level of public activity restrictions.
- 5.3 The Committee discussed the relative merits of allowing travellers from Victoria with quarantine or holding over to allow free travel from Victoria, including resource implications
- 5.4 The Committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting for Friday 13 November to further discuss and resolve a position on allowing travel from Victoria.

5.5 Transit through Victorian airports will also be considered at this meeting to allow information to be collected on the range of transfer times.

6. Public activities

- 6.1 The Committee noted that advice in COVID Safe Plans is being revised in anticipation of COVID Safe Plans being reissued when the public activities restrictions move to the baseline position. This is to include advice on fans and air-conditioner use in gyms.
- 6.2 The TekScan and QR code solutions are progressing well and should be available for pilot use shortly. The Committee recognised the exceptional work of DPC in progressing these projects.
- 6.3 The Committee noted that the introduction of these technological solutions for attendance records is a precondition for the resumption of indoor vertical consumption.
- 6.4 The Committee will discuss the timeframe for the move to baseline public activity restrictions at their next meeting.