

SA COVID-19 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting 81: 24 March 2021

Outcomes:

Reference	Action
4.8	the Committee agreed to recommend to the State Coordinator that the density requirement be changed to 3 persons per 4 sqm from 23:59 hours 31 March, with 100 per cent capacity for indoor seated events provided masks are worn.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 All members present.
- 1.2 Dr Evan Everest, AC Noel Bamford, Dr Chris Lease and Mr Don Frater attended as guests.
- 1.3 The Committee noted the emergency declaration had now been in place for 12 months with a significant amount of work done in that time.
- 1.4 The Committee noted changing circumstances, including the cessation of JobKeeper in 7 days and the rollout of the vaccination program.

2. AHPPC Update

- 2.1 CPHO noted South Australia has 14 active cases, and the importance of vaccination of staff working in red zones, noting two jurisdictions have recently had staff infections.

3. Cross Border travel update

- 3.1 This item was not discussed.

4. Public Activities

- 4.1 The Committee had a lengthy discussion on the risks and benefits of any change from the 1 per 2 sqm density requirement.
- 4.2 CPHO noted a number of factors remained unknown including the impact of variants of concern, the effect of vaccination on transmission, and the duration of immunity generated by vaccination.

- 4.3 The Committee discussed the extent to which an increase in density would make a material effect to business, noting it would principally be at times of peak demand.
- 4.4 CPHO noted the medical evidence does not support a reduction in density from 1 per 2 sqm as providing adequate distancing to prevent the spread of COVID in the community.
- 4.5 The Committee noted WA has reduced density in some circumstances.
- 4.6 The Committee noted that the vaccine rollout would allow public activities restrictions to be eased, but is likely to take significant time. The Committee discussed compliance and public expectations on density requirements.
- 4.7 The Committee noted that South Australia has had 2 months of the highest national unemployment rate, and the most small businesses as a percentage of the economy as factors to be considered.
- 4.8 Noting an escalation of risk but the importance of balancing this against social and economic factors, on balance the Committee agreed to recommend to the State Coordinator that the density requirement be changed to 3 persons per 4 sqm from 23:59 hours 31 March, with 100 per cent capacity for indoor seated events provided masks are worn.