



REcov19ER Teleconference

Tuesday, 21 April 2020 – ‘Government Updates’

	Organisation	Contributor	Comments	Actions Arising
A	OPENING			
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Meeting open @ 11:30am	
			Welcome; housekeeping (incl. teleconference etiquette)	
			One minute silence observed	
			Introductions of who is on call	
			Request made to ensure introductions do not take too long	
			Affirmation of yesterday’s comments about concerns of complacency in the community following some restrictions being lifted recently; the World Health Organisation (WHO) has made statements that the worst is still ahead in regard to the COVID-19 response; this group’s role is as important as ever to ensure people in the Pilbara are safe, etc.	
B	AGENCY UPDATES			
	DPC	Rohan	Confirmed contact with the REcov19ER Food Security Focus Group has been made. DPC will continue working with this group to provide updates and feed information back to the department and other working groups addressing shared concerns. DPC also participating on the state-wide working group, which is meeting later today. DPC also participating on the nation-wide working group, which is meeting tomorrow. Regarding the recent creation of the Complex Tasks Team, DPC deferred to Dept. of Communities to provide this update.	Further updates to be provided by DPC regarding progress to attendees of 23 April ‘Government Updates’ meeting
	Communities	Simon	While the department is already providing some support through its Pilbara Incident Management Team, the proposed Welfare Support Plans (with support being provided by industry and local governments) will act to formalise related systems and processes. A request to identify local Aboriginal organisations that could assist with both referring requests	

			<p>for assistance to the Pilbara Incident Management Team, as well as the distribution of essential supplies (via a fee-for-service arrangement) was circulated yesterday, with responses due tomorrow (Wednesday, 22 April) at 2pm. Noting, interested organisations can still become involved after this time, but early responses will allow provisions to be put in place more immediately to address urgent needs.</p> <p>The Pandemic Plans' review process continues; to-date, 12 plans have been assessed, with final drafts expected by Friday (24 April), which will then be submitted for approval and resourcing/implementation. The remaining 20 plans are expected to be received this week; they will then undergo the same assessment process. Noting, to assist with some of the needs already identified, industry have offered their support.</p> <p>Regarding concerns of COVID-19 impacts on FDV services, consultation with local service providers has been undertaken and needs identified and addressed; BHP has already provided some support in areas to enhance service provisions, while RTIO has offered its support to address concerns raised by Karratha Women's Refuge also.</p>	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Has Dept. of Communities approached Atlas Iron about accessing their Abydos Camp?	
	Communities	Simon	In response: Not yet, but will follow up today.	Communities (Simon) to work with REcov19ER (Gavin) to speak with Atlas Iron regarding use of Abydos Camp
	Communities	Simon	Regarding the recent creation of the Complex Tasks Team (as mentioned by DPC), affirmed contact with Communities (Linda Sperring) had been made, but role/s and involvement are yet to be confirmed; additional regional assistance via the Complex Tasks Team to be provided by Communities (Barry Thomas).	Communities (Simon) to clarify role/s and involvement of the Complex Tasks Team (Barry) and provide an update to attendees of 23 April 'Government Updates' meeting
	DPC	Rohan	Confirmed the Complex Tasks Team has been established under the Emergency Management Act to address specific needs; affirmed DPC will assist in providing information on progress at future meetings.	DPC (Rohan) to assist with providing an update regarding the Complex Tasks Team to attendees of 23 April 'Government Updates' meeting, if required

	WACHS	Kianna	No additional cases within the region have been reported. Concurred regarding concerns over the community becoming complacent.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Affirmed the importance of community messaging to mitigate complacency; REcov19ER (led by Danny) currently trying to coordinate messaging with assistance from WACHS, the three local AMSs and Ngaarda Media.	
	NIAA	Melissa	No major updates to advise; still working with the Commonwealth's food security working group, providing feedback to it regarding local progress and concerns.	
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Andrew	Focus Group Updates: Food Supply & Distribution – Contact has again been made with FMG (Heath) regarding their contributions: 1300 packs (650 packs of non-perishable items, 650 packs of hygiene items) are set for imminent distribution in the West Pilbara area; 100 similar packs will be available for collection/distribution in the Port Hedland area and surrounds on Thursday (23 April), with another two pallets expected soon. Next steps for this group will involve a focus on confirming individual community's storage capacities, e.g. freezers and dry stores available, and addressing any needs identified.	
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Kathryn	Focus Group Updates: Health, Medical & Education – The draft Community Checklist is now with the Dept. of Communities for review and comment, once this is finalised it will be provided to communities for action; other members of this group (namely Lisa and Trish) are seeking to clarify alternate schooling/attendance arrangements. Recovery & Long-term Planning – A Terms of Reference regarding the purpose, etc. of this group has been developed; foci to be on addressing issues learned from our response experiences and 'life after COVID-19'; next meeting set for Friday (24 April).	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Acknowledged the good progress being made by the various focus groups.	
C	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS			
	AISWA/ Pilbara Regiment	Lisa	Advised a Ministerial announcement was released today regarding rapid COVID-19 testing in the regions was being made available, including a roll-out in Port Hedland (see, https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/New-rapid-COVID-19-test-available-for-regional-communities.aspx). Advised alternate schooling/attendance arrangements have now been approved; clarity still being sought regarding this process.	

Gumala AC	Ashley	Affirmed interest in assisting Dept. of Communities with their request for assistance from local Aboriginal organisations.	
Telethon Kids	Cheryl	Confirmed also working on community messaging, including development of a website for Aboriginal-specific resources; offered assistance in regard to this, if needed.	Telethon Kids (Cheryl) to provide additional information about these efforts to REcov19ER via email
Pilbara Regiment	Paul	Confirmed availability to assist, if required; requests to be made for approval. Raised recent issue seen on social media about isolation accommodation assistance.	
Communities	Simon	Confirmed awareness of issue (likely the same being raised) and that advise had been provided to the individuals involved; noting, the Dept. of Communities must prioritise access to emergency isolation housing to those <i>required</i> to quarantine, e.g. those being discharged from hospitals, those wanting to enter 'Designated Areas', etc.; at this stage, the isolation accommodation is not being made available for discretionary use.	
Communities	Bibin	Confirmed that certain cases will not meet the current criteria for such accommodation assistance; in these instances, people involved are referred to other available services.	
Nyamal AC	Gavin	Issues like the one being discussed serve as good examples of community feedback this group needs to hear, so it can figure out how it might assist; if anyone is having negative experiences, these can have big impacts on the community more broadly.	
Communities	Simon	Agreed; noting, such discussions likely need to remain generic though, as to protect peoples' privacy/confidentiality.	
Nyamal AC	Gavin	Raised concern over potential impacts relating to the government decision to lift previous state-wide alcohol purchasing restrictions (see, https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/COVID-19-takeaway-alcohol-restrictions-lifted.aspx); worried this may contribute to complacency being observed in some local areas, including risks involved with a possible increase in travel movements.	
Communities	Simon	Understood this group was going to consider/seek community feedback about alcohol-related concerns (and possibly approach relevant Ministers to raise such); noting, other interested parties would be lobbying government, so if this group has a position on the matter to advocate, it could act as a counterbalance for government to take on-board when making decisions; if so, suggested WAPol involvement to assist in identifying issues, etc.	

	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Agreed; matter to be taken offline to seek input and determine a position/action to be taken.	REcov19ER to determine its position and actions to undertake regarding its alcohol-related concerns
D	CLOSING			
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Meeting closed @ 12:15pm	
			Next meeting tomorrow (Wednesday, April 22) @ 11.30am for 'Communities Input'	
			Next 'Government Updates' meeting Thursday, April 23 @ 11.30am	
<i>Notes taken by Teri O'Neill (YMAC/PAV/REcov19ER). Any comments or concerns, please email toneill@ymac.org.au</i>				