



REcov19ER Teleconference

Thursday, 23 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 – in particular for the recent Victorian Police loss of life, as well as for the ANZAC’s (with ANZAC Day being this coming Saturday)	
			Introductions of who is on call; including acknowledgement from WAPol (Mark) for the Victorian Police recognition and respect; apologies entered for REcov19ER group member Danny, who is being held up on another teleconference	
			Affirmation of this week’s focus about concerns of complacency in the community following some restrictions being lifted recently; this group’s role is as important as ever to ensure people in the Pilbara are safe, etc.; everyone thanked for their ongoing attendance	
B	AGENCY UPDATES			
	DPC	NA	Apologies entered; Communities (Barry) to provide an update on the Complex Tasks Team on their behalf.	
	Communities	Barry	Regarding the recent creation of the Complex Tasks Team for Remote Communities, this has been established to address issues and enhance liveability in communities, specifically those falling within the Biosecurity Act ‘Designated Areas’; it is not the team’s intention to duplicate or hinder other active efforts, they are here to assist where possible, including to facilitate communications between government and community.	
	Communities	Simon	Acknowledged the Complex Tasks Team’s involvement, including the valuable role the team can play in escalating certain concerns that the REcov19ER group and/or regionally-based agencies/organisations may struggle with.	

			<p>Regarding the Pilbara Incident Management Team's (PIMT) work, an increase in people contacting them for assistance has been observed, e.g. those looking for available accommodation to quarantine; some issues encountered in relation to identifying adequate accommodation options, e.g. in town-based locations for those requiring to isolate prior to returning to certain communities (i.e. those in the Biosecurity Act 'Designated Areas'); in response, the department continues to investigate alternative solutions, e.g. existing government housing stock, mining camps' capacities to assist, etc.</p> <p>Acknowledged the responses from local Aboriginal organisations in relation to recent request for assistance with the Welfare Support Plans implementation, i.e. those organisations offering to help with making referrals (on a volunteer basis) and delivery/distribution (on a fee-for-service basis); though the suggested deadline was yesterday (Wednesday, 22 April), any organisations interested still encouraged to contact PIMT staff; discussions with Coles and FoodBank have also occurred to ensure the security of supplies to support the plans; generally, the Welfare Support Plans are currently being finalised and roll-out expected soon.</p>	
	Communities	Ella	<p>As mentioned at previous meetings, the Pandemic Plans' review process continues; to-date, 12 plans have been assessed, with final drafts expected by tomorrow (Friday, 24 April), which will then be submitted for approval and resourcing/implementation; additional information still required for the outstanding plans; REcov19ER (Johanna) has been helping to address this; with more detailed information coming in, requests can now start to be made to the Complex Tasks Team and other relevant agencies to provide assistance with specific needs, including education; keeping communities informed on progress remains an issue.</p>	
	AISWA/ Pilbara Regiment	Lisa	<p>Clarity sought on education needs being requested and who has been involved in any discussions.</p>	
	PDC Communities	Trish Simon	<p>Confirmed PERO (Cheryl) has been spoken to; she is currently working on a lot across the region to address education-related issues being identified.</p>	<p>REcov19ER (Trish) and/or Communities (Simon/Ella) to see if PERO (Cheryl) can join in on the relevant focus group's discussions to provide an update on her work to-date; or provide an update to this focus group on her behalf.</p>
	Communities	Simon	<p>Regarding concerns of COVID-19 impacts on FDV services, the survey with local service providers was undertaken and the needs identified (noting, all agencies advised on additional</p>	<p>Anyone with information on who might be able to help with</p>

			<p>pressures being experienced) are being addressed; most recently, contact has also been made with the Aboriginal Men’s Healing Centre located in Newman regarding what help they may require.</p> <p>Regarding the sourcing of laptops/iPads to assist with the home-schooling of children in care in the region, the need has been confirmed as 37 laptops and 33 iPads; Chevron has agreed to supply the 33 iPads; anyone with contacts for who might be able to help with donating the 37 laptops (noting, they can be second-hand), please contact the PIMT.</p> <p>Regarding communications needs that have been identified, RTIO have donated ten satellite phones; three of these are to be provided to those communities who have already raised their need for one via their Pandemic Plans; anyone else who knows of other communities requiring a satellite phone asked to advise the PIMT.</p> <p>Emerging homelessness issues in/around towns, specifically relating to those people who are required to quarantine before they can return to their communities in the Biosecurity Act ‘Designated Areas’, but who cannot access suitable accommodation to do so, is being assessed to determine extent of the issue/needs and potential solutions.</p> <p>Recent toilet paper/sewerage issue raised in Irrungadji/Nullagine has now been addressed, with additional supplies having been provided.</p>	<p>donating the 37 laptops needed, contact Communities’ PIMT (Bibin)</p> <p>Anyone who knows of other communities requiring a satellite phone, contact Communities PIMT (Bibin)</p> <p>(To contact the PIMT, email PilbaralMT@communities.wa.gov.au, or to contact Bibin directly, email Bibin.Roy@communities.wa.gov.au, or call 0428 405 798)</p>
	PDC	Trish	Understands Parnpajinya may be experiencing similar issues at the moment.	REcov19ER (Trish) to confirm issue at Parnpajinya and provide advice on this to Communities’ PIMT (Bibin)
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Kathryn	Update sought on status of the draft Community Checklist (awaiting endorsement from Communities (Simon?))	
	Communities	Ella	The draft Community Checklist is still undergoing an internal review and has not yet been provided to the regional office for comment yet.	
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Kathryn	Affirmed the Community Checklist would be a good tool for addressing the types of issues being discussed, would be good to get it to communities as soon as possible.	
	WAPol	Mark	Communities’ updates relating to the efforts of the PIMT have covered most things; generally, WAPol are observing positive responses in the region.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Requested regional crime statistics be provided at these meetings, if possible, in particular to help inform current considerations by the relevant focus group regarding previous discussions	WAPol to aim to provide crime rates, etc. on an ongoing basis at future meetings.

			on alcohol-related concerns and potential restrictions; appreciate that not all crimes are reported, but any available data will help.	
	WAPol	Mark	Agreed under-reporting can be an issue (this can be due to the remoteness of some communities, or because matters are dealt with internally in some communities); current trends being observed are mixed, i.e. there have been increased reports in some areas, while others are experiencing a decrease in reporting (with no direct causations bearing out to explain why this is occurring); however, regarding alcohol concerns, due to local liquor accords in place, some communities may wish to self-impose restrictions.	
<i>Meeting briefly suspended due to disruption (someone placing the call on-hold); meeting recommenced @ 12:07pm</i>				
	WACOSS	Celeste	Provided overview of how WACOSS is assisting to highlight issues with relevant government departments, as well as other peak bodies; a longer-term view is also being taken to ensure a sustainable recovery process, including identifying new cohorts who are particularly vulnerable following the COVID-19 crisis.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Request for any insight regarding timeframes for the lessening/removal of existing restrictions, e.g. social distancing rules, and potential impacts on vulnerable people.	
	WACOSS	Celeste	Different indications in the media have been presented, so it's hard to tell; some timeframes mention reducing certain restrictions as early as mid-May or in a month's time; most likely, any changes made would be implemented via a staged process, i.e. those who are most vulnerable, e.g. remote communities, will have to keep observing the rules, so people are not put at unnecessary risk.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Affirmed the importance of getting current and accurate information out to communities to keep them informed about any changes, etc. to help ensure they are not putting themselves and/or others at unnecessary risk.	
	AISWA/ Pilbara Regiment	Lisa	Advised some independent and Catholic schools in the region have decided not to follow public school arrangements (instead deciding case-by-case); what this means for those children unable to return to school to be discussed in the relevant focus group.	
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Andrew	Focus Group Updates: Food Supply & Distribution – Group met again yesterday and have been keeping across progress via email; more information received from certain communities is helping to identify additional gaps to be addressed; expecting an updated database compiling all information received to-date to be completed in the next coming days; part of the group's work has also	

			involved the development of budgets to address needs identified, which are anticipated to be completed next week; next steps for the group will include identifying potential sources of funding to support/fulfil needs/requests being made.	
	Njamal PT/ISPL	Kathryn	Focus Group Updates: Health, Medical & Education – Next steps for this group include consideration of the alcohol-related concerns being raised and determining REcov19ER’s position and actions to be taken as a result (with data to be provided by WAPol to assist with this), as well as distributing the Community Checklists (once endorsed/returned by Communities (Simon/Ella)); regarding the anticipated distribution of the Community Checklists, this may also involve the provision of ‘show bags’ to communities to help with messaging/engagement (REcov19ER (Kathryn and Trish) looking to organise these).	
<i>Meeting briefly suspended due to disruption (all callers became disconnected); meeting recommenced @ 12:21pm</i>				
C	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS			
	YAC	Grant	Clarification sought on crime reporting statistics, specifically issues in obtaining local data.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	(WAPol (Mark) no longer on call.) Provided recap of alcohol-related concerns/ discussions, including how data would assist the group in determining a position, but how, due to underreporting, a complete picture may not be possible.	
	YAC	Grant	Asked if a response would be to encourage communities to report.	
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Ideally, prevention would be better; if REcov19ER can assist with mitigating any of the suspected causes of issues, e.g. alcohol-related problems, that would be good; noting, this is being taken up with the relevant focus group.	
D	CLOSING			
	Nyamal AC	Gavin	Acknowledged and apologised for the couple of disruptions experienced during today’s meeting, and thanked all participants for their patience and contributions; felt like an example of how adaptive we need to be in some situations, much like how we need to react quickly and effectively to the wider COVID-19 recovery work being undertaken.	
			Meeting closed @ 12:25pm	
			Next meeting tomorrow (Friday, April 24) @ 11.30am for ‘Communities Input’	
			Next ‘Government Updates’ meeting Tuesday, April 28 @ 11.30am	
<i>Notes taken by Teri O’Neill (YMAC/PAV/REcov19ER). Any comments or concerns, please email toneill@ymac.org.au</i>				