

**From:** [Sector support COVID-19](#)  
**Subject:** FOR DISTRIBUTION PLEASE: Message from Community Sector Partnership Team  
**Date:** Tuesday, 31 March 2020 4:05:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [Template Letter for intrastate travel.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

## Message from Community Sector Partnership Team

Department of Communities



Hi all

We understand that there have been some questions about how decisions coming from National Cabinet are implemented and interpreted in Western Australia.

In our State, the decisions are given effect via State of Emergency declarations from WA Police and the Department of Health. Those declarations can be found [here](#).

Some of you have asked about mass gathering rules. Under the [relevant declaration](#), those rules do not apply to any gathering at an office building that is necessary for the normal business of the premises. This would apply to all sector office buildings

Others have asked about the closure of [certain places of business, worship and entertainment](#). There may be a small impact for some of you from these three declarations, which include closure of community, recreation or youth centres other than to host essential voluntary or public services such as food banks or homelessness services.

There have also been questions about the regional border restrictions that will take effect from midnight tonight. The [currently available guidance](#) is provided below (the formal declaration has not yet been made). For the community services sector, the key point is that people travelling to work, both paid and unpaid, are exempted. We suggest that if any of your staff are travelling to or for work across the regional boundaries outlined below, they carry a hard copy or electronic letter from you as their employer. We have attached a template letter for you to put on your own letterhead and use.

We know that this is not a simple or perfect regulatory regime. We are working closely with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, WA Police and other agencies to improve communication of various measures, and ensure that the impact on the community services sector is actively considered in any directions that are made.

Kind regards

**Michelle Andrews and Deb Zanella**

Community Sector Partnership Team

Department of Communities

### **Border controls – community service sector exemptions.**

The WA Government will introduce further restrictions on travel within Western Australia from 11:59pm Tuesday, 31 March 2020 to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. After this time, most Western Australians will not be allowed to travel outside their designated region.

Western Australian intrastate travel is defined as movement through the boundaries of the [regions](#) of Western Australia.

These regions are:

- Perth and Peel (due to their proximity, the Perth and Peel regions will form one region)
- South West
- Great Southern
- Goldfields-Esperance
- Mid-West
- Wheatbelt
- Gascoyne

- Pilbara
- Kimberley.

Police have the power to enforce these restrictions, and fines of up to \$50,000 can be issued.

Exemptions will apply for:

- people travelling to work, both paid and unpaid
- attending medical appointments
- transporting freight
- where necessary to attend school or an educational institution
- those who do not have access to groceries or supplies within their region
- approved compassionate grounds.

Access to designated regions, including the Kimberley (including the entire Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, and parts of the Shire of East Pilbara encompassing the communities of Jigalong, Martu homeland communities and Kiwirrkurra) have [additional stronger restrictions in place](#). This is to help curb the spread of COVID-19 into our very vulnerable communities, which could have catastrophic consequences.

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The Department of Communities acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Western Australia and their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their elders past and present.

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