

**From:** [Sector support COVID-19](#)  
**To:** [Sector support COVID-19](#)  
**Subject:** Message from the Director General, Department of Communities  
**Date:** Friday, 8 May 2020 2:31:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Week 3 Update - Community Sector Partnership Team.pdf](#)

## Message from the Director General

### Department of Communities



Hello everyone,

I would like to thank the taskforce co-chairs who participated in the taskforce workshop on Tuesday. I have been told the session was very insightful and I thank you for your open and honest discussions. This feedback is vital to the work the Community Sector Partnership Team is doing with Emma White to review and refresh the approach of the taskforces and our new ways of working.

I have attached an update from the Community Sector Partnership Team so you can see yourselves some of the wonderful work they have been doing.

We understand some of our service providers and staff may need to travel due to work and we have been getting lots of questions around the process and documents required to obtain travel exemptions. The Department for the Premier and Cabinet has released a series of [FAQs](#) to support people in applying for travel exemptions. Please share these with your service providers so they can guide their clients through the process and ensure they have the right documentation and can get where they need to be.

I would also like to update you on the WA COVID-19 Emergency Accommodation Plan which is currently under final consideration by the State Welfare Emergency Committee. While that is being finalised we wanted to communicate with the sector to provide assurance that emergency accommodation will be provided in cases where individuals are unable to self-isolate and have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results, or have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not require hospitalisation.

Self-isolation is particularly important in dealings with vulnerable people. I will have more to say as we develop our plans and capability but we particularly wanted to give providers of group accommodation assurance that they do not need to hold contingency beds open for the possibility of needing to isolate clients.

If I could use this moment to draw your attention to a large piece of work overseen by Department of Communities Deputy Incident Controller, State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre Paul Isaachsen measuring the [social impact of COVID-19](#), as at April 2020.

In other news our Tuesdays at Twelve webinars continue to generate fantastic feedback. Next week will be our last session. I will be joined by Susan Hunt from Lotterywest who will update us on funding options for programs and activities. I encourage everyone who is able to, to listen in and take part.

Go well,

**Michelle Andrews**  
Director General  
Department of Communities

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