



### Message from Acting CEO, Phil Naden



The AH&MRC would like to acknowledge our Member Services who are doing a great job on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. Your tireless work in preparing for and responding to the outbreak has set a benchmark for a community-controlled approach to handling a public health crisis.

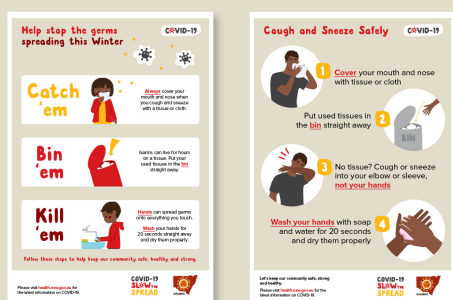
The AH&MRC has been hard at work organising funding equipment and resources to assist our Member Services during these difficult times. We are pleased to announce there are a number of resources up on our website and the NSW Health website. We encourage our Members to utilise these resources to educate and inform Aboriginal communities on COVID-19.

We are also pleased to announce that Robert Skeen will be joining the AH&MRC as the new incoming CEO. Rob has 23 years of experience working in Aboriginal health care. He will play a vital role in the sectors response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

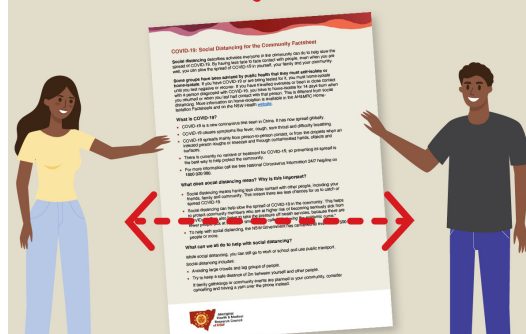
If there is anything AH&MRC can do assist you during these times please reach out to us on [covid19@ahmrc.org.au](mailto:covid19@ahmrc.org.au)

**AH&MRC COVID-19**

## Coughs and sneezes poster



## Social distancing for the community fact sheet



### AMS COVID-19 Resources

The AH&MRC has been working hard to create resources for our Member Services to educate and inform community members on COVID-19. The resources can be customised and co-branded with our Member Service's logos. Contact [COVID19@ahmrc.org.au](mailto:COVID19@ahmrc.org.au) if you would like this organised.

#### Resources include:

- Factsheets on [social distancing](#), [home isolation](#) and [home isolation for patients](#)
- Posters on [handwashing](#) and [coughs and sneezes](#)
- Door signs including an [AMS welcome door sign](#) and an [AMS triage door sign](#)
- Videos with Tyson Demos from the Illawarra Hawks on [deadly handwashing](#), [7 steps to preventing COVID19](#) and [staying safe during COVID19](#)
- Videos with ENT Surgeon Dr Kong on [social distancing](#) and the [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- Booklet on [how to keep you and your mob safe from COVID-19](#)
- [Social media pack](#) and [tiles](#)
- Customisable [COVID-19 email banner](#)
- [Letter to Elders](#)

More resources to come!

The AH&MRC has also created a [Pandemic Toolkit](#) to assist healthcare professionals, community leaders, and decision-makers to enhance preparedness and lessen the impact of a severe pandemic in your community.

Download

AH&MRC News



### AH&MRC RTO - Block 2 learning now online!

AH&MRC started delivering Block 2 for our Primary Health Care and Alcohol and Other Drugs courses online from 24th of March. The Block consists of live lectures, tutorials and buddy meetings using Zoom. Both courses had over 10 participants attending the live sessions in week 1 and week 2 with an attendance of 13

Ethics

### AH&MRC HREC - COVID-19 Changes

Considering the current COVID-19 situation and the most recent advice from NSW Health and the Australian Government Department of Health, the AH&MRC Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has decided to suspend all Approvals that relate to all data collection requiring face-to-face contact with participants. The HREC would encourage researchers to

AH&MRC would like to thank the CEOs of Aboriginal Medical Services where our students come from for continuing to support AH&MRC during this time. Our frontline staff are working hard to cope with the excess demand for services.

This suspension commenced at 12pm on the 23rd of March and will be reviewed fortnightly. We thank you for your patience.



### 14th ADAN Symposium

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual ADAN Symposium was held from the 3rd to the 5th of March. The Symposium brought together Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) workers to build partnerships, engage in cultural and peer support, share stories and initiatives, as well as provide insights into the current trends and approaches into AOD treatment, care and management for Aboriginal Communities.

The three-day Symposium included cultural ceremonies, panel discussions and presentations from industry experts and inspirational Aboriginal people working in the AOD field.



### [National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit](#)

The National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit was held from the 25th to the 26th of February. The Summit brought together workers from various sectors to share successes, create partnerships, improve service delivery to young people and most importantly give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people a voice to ensure the health system is supporting them to live a healthy and happy life.

The four-day Summit was filled with presentations from industry leaders and truly inspirational individuals who are not only changing the sector but also setting an example for the next generation.

## Industry Updates and Resources



## Australian Government

As of Sunday the 22nd of March 2020 in light of COVID-19 the Australian Government announced a Second Stimulus Package. Small businesses, including Non for Profits, with an annual turnover of less than \$50 mil will be provided up to \$100k through the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as a credit on their Business Activity Statements (BAS).

First credits are expected to be processed in late April 2020, payments will be processed into the nominated bank account where usual refunds for the BAS are made by the ATO. We advise Members to make sure that all BAS lodgements are up to date as it is not clear whether small businesses whose lodgements are not up to date will receive payments.

## Sector News

[Steven Taylor named worker of the year](#)

Cowra's Steven Taylor has been named the Male Alcohol and Other Drug Worker of the Year at the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network (ADAN) Symposium on March 3.

**Image and article credit:**  
Cowra Guardian

[Coronavirus social distancing a struggle for large, multi-generational Indigenous families](#)

Aboriginal health authorities are warning it may be impossible for some families to properly self-isolate if the need arises, due to the level of over-crowding in many homes.

**Image and article credit:**  
ABC News



Got a story or information about your service you'd like to share on Message Stick? We'd love to hear from you!

Send your stories to:  
[LButler@ahmrc.org.au](mailto:LButler@ahmrc.org.au)



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