



GOVERNMENT AND NDIS INFORMATION

Latest from NDIS:

NDIS is continuing to adapt their support to both providers and NDIS participants in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

On the 22nd August, the NDIS allowed for further flexibility to funding arrangements for **personal protective equipment (PPE)**. These changes apply where coronavirus (COVID-19) is active in your community, and the use of PPE is consistent with current health advice.

You can now recover the costs to purchase PPE items using your NDIS funds, if you;

- receive an average of at least one hour a day of face-to-face daily living supports, and
- live in Victoria or New South Wales.
- Restricted areas of Queensland

Plan and self-managed participants can purchase PPE and record and claim their purchases in the usual way. Agency-managed participants can purchase PPE through registered providers.

If you need PPE items like face masks, face shields and gloves, and the use of these items is directly related to your face-to-face daily living supports, you can use your core supports budget to purchase these items.

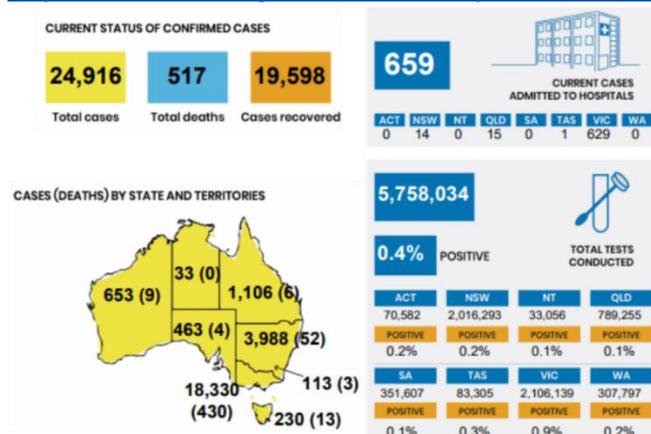
For use of PPE outside of your home and face-to-face supports NDIS funds cannot be utilised, this remains a personal expense. We encourage you to keep an adequate supply of the essential products, but do not stockpile more than you need.

Link to information for Participants: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/participants-coronavirus-covid-19>.

NDIS Helpline: 1800 800 110

AUSTRALIA'S CURRENT SITUATION (as at 24th August 2020)

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance>





RESTRICTIONS BY STATE – LATEST CHANGES

QUEENSLAND UPDATE

QUEENSLAND UPDATE

On 22nd August 2020 the QLD government took action to protect our communities most vulnerable from the recent outbreak of Covid-19 in the Greater Brisbane area. This included the immediate requirement for all workers and visitors of **shared disability accommodation services** and aged care facilities to **wear face masks** and the restrictions of visitors and activities to that of essential activities only.

On Saturday morning, UDC took immediate action to reimplement our stay at home safeguarding measures to all affected areas. In line with recommendations from the QLD health department, we are strongly advising all people residing in Supported Independent Living homes **stay at home** unless they are required to leave for essential services, as defined by the QLD health department.

Essential activities include going to work (if a COVID safe plan is in place), going to medical appointments where they can not take place via video conferencing, and going to get essential items such as food and medication.

The limitation of visitors will place temporary restrictions on visitors to the homes of those people that are not paid support workers, specialists providing medical care or those that are authorised by the chief medical officer.

While we understand that these restrictions will place extra stress on our whole UDC family, if we all do the right thing it is our hope, we can return to our previous arrangements as soon as possible.

We encourage you (and UDC staff will support you any way we can), to **continue to contact with your loved ones via video calls**. For exceptional circumstances where visits are unavoidable, our COVID safe measures will be applied and management approval will be needed. For further information please follow the link below.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/disability-accommodation-services>

Queensland borders remain closed for all non-QLD residents or those who reside outside the bubble. A border pass will be required for anyone traveling for essential purposes, including providing services to a person with a disability. Passes must be updated every 7 days and photo I.D. carried to support the information on your pass.

QUEENSLAND UPDATE CAN BE FOUND HERE: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

NEW SOUTH WALES UPDATE

No changes to NSW have taken place since our last update. We have no active cases New South Wales have identified hotspots where recent cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed. **In the areas of NSW where we provide support these are no active cases** in any of these postcodes which is fantastic news. Regardless we must remain vigilant and if you are required to travel, avoid known hotspots and if you have to go into a hot spot for essential reason you should:

- immediately [self-isolate](#) until 14 days after you were last there
- [get tested](#) even if you have no symptoms
- watch for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and get retested should any symptoms recur
- even if you get a negative test, you must [stay in isolation for 14 days](#) (this is because it can take 14 days before you may show symptoms or test positive).

There are a number of other locations that if you have attended you must watch for COVID-19 Symptoms these can be found here. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

UNITED DISABILITY CARE

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

25th AUGUST 2020



SOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE

South Australia have changed the restrictions in place, as of the 5th August:

- A cap of 10 people for gatherings in private homes
- Food and beverages (including alcohol) are only consumed by patrons while seated at tables, away from any bar or ordering area.

As of the 29th July:

- Only essential travellers are able to enter SA from Victoria. South Australians are no longer able to return to SA from Victoria.

All Information for SA COVID restrictions can be found here: <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities>

UNITED DISABILITY PROTOCOLS – PLEASE READ

United Disability Care continue to prioritise the health and safety of the people we support and our employees by following strict protocols.

Our reusable facemasks should be arriving any day now and will be available for distribution at this stage next week. In the meantime we have sufficient supplies of single-use masks for any worker who wishes to wear them. We encourage all workers regardless of your location if you cannot maintain social distancing to wear a mask and help stop the spread.

Clients and Employees are also at liberty to purchase their own and wear as you feel necessary.

Below is a reminder of current health and safety requirements:

- All employees taking leave must declare where they are travelling to and **submit a statutory declaration** to HR.
- Any employee travelling to an identified hotspot or overseas must factor in 14 days quarantine upon their return.
- **Employees who work with those in high risk categories and hotspots for COVID-19 may be restricted to working across fewer services for a period of time. This includes restrictions on allowing you to work for another service provider.**
- Employees not feeling well must **notify rosters and their manager and not attend work**
- Employees and visitors must **continue to have their temperature checked** upon arrival to any of our offices and residences and follow all hygiene protocols in place.
- **Any employee that has been in direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must not attend work, they must self-quarantine and undertake testing as indicted by the relevant State Health authorities.**
- **Visitors to group homes must still be scheduled and cleaning requirements are still required to be undertaken between visits.**
- Where possible maintain the 1.5 metres social distancing guidelines
- Increased cleaning and personal hygiene requirements are still in place
- PPE to be worn in appropriate circumstances
- All staff travelling across border for essential work must have registered and obtained a border pass.

- We encourage the people we support to not visit tourist hotspots at this present time and will not be scheduling any group outing to such places.
- All hotspot areas of COVID-19 in any state is to be avoided.

We encourage all of our extended UDC family to continue to do what you can to prevent the spread of Covid-19. UDC has been vigilant in adhering to all public health recommendations and responding to changes in a timely manner as they are announced. **We thank each and every one of you** for playing your part in keeping all of the people we support, our workers and our families safe and being so patient and understanding in these times. We will continue to monitor the situation and if the risk increases we will of course follow all government directives in each of the states we operate.

QUESTIONS & CONTACTING US If any staff, people we support or families have any questions we ask you not to hesitate to contact your Team Leader or Area Manager. Alternatively you are able to call or email us on 1800 454 850 info@uniteddisability.com.au and the appropriate person will assist you as soon as possible.