

COVID-19 Staff Update

19 March 2020

Keeping Everyone Safe and Healthy.



Hi again,

I think we are all coming to grips with the extent and impact that the COVID-19 outbreak will have on our lives in the coming weeks and months.

Some of the things that we have taken for granted in our personal and professional lives have already changed and it is likely that we will be asked to place more restrictions on our social interactions and movement.

Vulnerable communities & people.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. Advice and recommends a range of measures to protect vulnerable people.

The recommendations included reducing visitors to:

- Residential care facilities
- Remote Aboriginal communities

This is the work that we do, and it will be critical for us to adapt and modify our practices following advice from the relevant authorities as the advice is updated.

Balancing our legislative obligations.

As your employer we obviously have a duty of care and an obligation to ensure that we provide a safe place and systems of work.

Equally as a registered NDIS Disability Service Provider we have an obligation to the people requiring our support.

This makes us quite different to many other workplaces in that we have a co-obligation to our employees and people receiving our services under separate pieces of legislation.

Assessing risk, case by case.

Work Health and Safety laws also require us, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure the health and safety of our employees and others at Far North controlled workplaces.

This means, assessing each personal circumstance and responding to minimise potential exposure to other employees and the most vulnerable, our NDIS participants.

Access to Far North workplaces.

As this outbreak progresses, we may have to make decisions about your attendance at your 'usual place of work'.

These decisions will always be made to minimise harm and maintain robust infection control and isolation protocols.

We need your full cooperation!

Your workmates, the people that we provide services to, and those who love them, are more than ever relying on us to stay safe.

Please remain vigilant and focussed and we will get through this together.

Finally, DO NOT ATTEND WORK:

- If you are feeling unwell
- If you have been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

Seek your own medical advice and call your line manager to assess what we do next as an organisation. www.health.gov.au

Happy to discuss,

Kathy Hough CEO Far North

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