

COVID-19 Update No3

30 March 2020

Extraordinary Times...



Well I think we can all agree that it has been an extraordinary couple of weeks.

Our world has changed and there are probably some things that have changed forever.

Across Western Australia and the Kimberley!

We have seen extraordinary measures being taken to reduce unnecessary regional travel.

The Kimberley region was closed off to non-residents and wider regional travel bans come in to force at midnight on Tuesday. This means that only people who are providing essential services will be able to travel outside of the region that they live in.



What do the Remote Community travel restrictions mean for us?

The State Government has implemented binding Directions to protect people living in remote Aboriginal communities.

The Directions aim to limit the spread of COVID-19 by restricting non-residents from entering communities while ensuring the ongoing provision of critical services and supplies.

The WA Government wants to ensure that only people who are essential to support the community are able to enter, this now includes disability services.

Our networks have never been more important

It is important that we do not contribute to levels of community anxiety by anything that we say or do.

Even though we are permitted to enter remote communities as an essential service it is essential that we seek permission first.

We will use our networks and existing relationships to make sure people are getting the services they need.

'Three's a Crowd' Social Distancing.

New social distancing rules have come into place reducing the number of people allowed to congregate in public from 10 people to just 2 people. (Three's a Crowd) It seems that we can expect these restrictions to be in place for many weeks and months.



Disruption to normal life.

For all of us this presents a significant change in the way we all live our lives.

For some of the people we work with these changes will mean they will not get the time they expect with friends and family resulting in heightened emotional responses and changes in behaviour.

Being innovative with our support.

If you have an innovative idea on different ways of doing things that has worked with one of the people you work with, let us know about it... It might be important information for someone else in the Far North team elsewhere.

Thanks for your work,

Kathy Hough CEO Far North