

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) sector update

5 March 2020

Colleagues,

As you would be aware, on 30 January 2020, the Australian Government declared the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Accordingly, the federal and state governments are adopting a precautionary approach in preparedness and planning for potential impacts to services.

In keeping with this, we are taking a proactive approach in informing and supporting organisations in their Contingency and Continuity Planning to ensure minimal impacts to service delivery continuity and wherever possible, contribute to the rapid and confident recovery of individuals, communities and services.

The critical role your organisation plays in keeping children, young people and women safe in our communities is recognised, as is the impact of any potential outbreak of this virus for you, your staff and your clients. Therefore, this is a timely reminder for your organisation to review and update your Business Continuity Plan, and to keep them front of mind while, together, we navigate any challenges that might arise in the coming months.

We strongly encourage you and your staff to visit the following websites and familiarise yourself with the comprehensive and up-to-date Federal and Queensland Health information on COVID-19 and the process governments are taking to contain the virus, including practical things we all can do to help minimise transmission:

- [Queensland Health](#) – for all the latest information on COVID-19 in Queensland
- [Australian Government Department of Health](#) – COVID-19 health alert

In addition, the Queensland Government has developed the resource [People with vulnerabilities in disasters: A framework for an effective local response](#) and a tool kit, in collaboration with key partners to contribute to building resilient communities.

To assist your organisation to review and update your Business Continuity Plan, please refer to resources provided by:

- [Queensland Council of Social Services](#) (QCROSS)
- [Community Services Industry Alliance](#) (CSIA)

Alternatively, the following peak bodies may also be of assistance:

- [Queensland Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak](#) (QATSCIPP)
- [PeakCare](#)
- [Queensland Foster and Kinship Care](#) (QFKC)

If you have any queries, please contact your regional contract manager in the first instance.

We are committed to working in partnership with our service providers to ensure service continuity for our clients. We will be in contact with you over the coming weeks as more information becomes available.