

Aboriginal News Territory Way

June 2020

Welcome to the Office of Aboriginal Affairs regular newsletter.

Keeping you up to date with what's happening across the Northern Territory, your region and community.

**Update on
(COVID-19)**

The Roadmap to the new normal and Biosecurity updates

A three step roadmap is underway to take the Northern Territory (NT) to the new normal.

As at noon, Friday, 5 June the final stage, Stage 3 came into effect which will see entertainment venues, community and recreational centres open as well as the commencement of sporting competitions and beauty therapy services.

The biosecurity area restrictions in the NT were also lifted on 5 June 2020. This means there is no longer any requirement to quarantine for 14 days before entering a remote community. Residents can move freely between their communities, homelands, country and town.

The most up to date information can be found at www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au

While restrictions are lifting, it is important that Territorians continue to maintain good physical distancing and hygiene practices to protect against spreading coronavirus (COVID-19).

Border Restrictions and Quarantine

From Monday, 15 June the Northern Territory will transition from mandatory, monitored quarantine to mandatory, self-quarantine.

Arrivals will be able to undertake the 14-day quarantine period in their own home, in private accommodation, or in appropriate commercial accommodation, at their own cost.

This change will not apply to people arriving from overseas, including overseas arrivals transiting from interstate and monitored quarantine will continue to apply for this cohort.

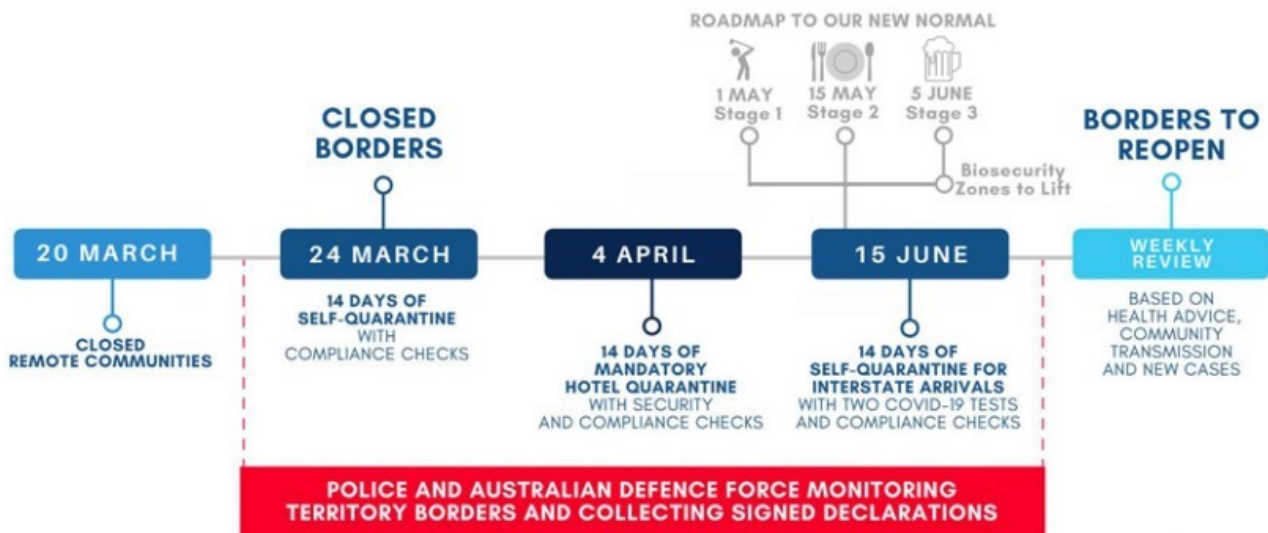
This new arrangement will also include mandatory coronavirus testing regime for all arrivals going into quarantine.

Police and Environmental Health Officers will be spot checking people at random points throughout their quarantine.

This is a critical step towards easing border restrictions at a later date, when it is safe to do so.

The Northern Territory Government will keep doing whatever it takes to protect Territorians, and keep the NT the safest place in Australia.

THE TERRITORY'S COVID-19 BORDERS RESPONSE



In this together

National Reconciliation Week
2020

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

National Reconciliation Week

Recently Australia celebrated Reconciliation Week, which is an important opportunity for Australians to recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

National Reconciliation Week begins each year on 27 May, the date Australians overwhelmingly voted for Aboriginal people to be included in the Census in 1967, and finishes on 3 June, the date of the landmark, 1992 Mabo decision, in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title for the first time.

The theme for #NRW2020 – In this together – is now resonating in ways we could not have foreseen, but is a timely reminder whether in a crisis or in reconciliation we are all #InThisTogether.

In light of the current COVID-19 restrictions, Aboriginal Affairs Strategic Partnerships team have collaborated with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to create an online platform enabling Territorians to participate in National Reconciliation Week activities virtually this year.

Check-out some Territorian testimonials about what reconciliation means to them, you can also see all the amazing photos that were entered into the competition:

www.indigenouseventsnt.com.au



Winning photo from the photo competition: Tamika Meehan – Goodstart Early Learning Centre, Wulagi.



Photo from the photo competition: Samantha Walker – “Best Friends Forever”

2020 NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum

EVENT POSTPONED

2020 NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum

Due to concerns around the changing and widespread impacts of COVID-19, the Northern Territory Government made the decision to postpone the NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum.

Details about the rescheduled Forum date will be provided shortly on our website, via email and through social media in the coming weeks.

The forum is designed to create a space for sharing, learning and exchanging how Aboriginal people and groups are influencing and reclaiming their leadership and governance that ensures culture, people and places are at the heart of their decision making and in turn achieving community aspirations.

The forum provides an opportunity to bring together delegates from across the Territory's regional and remote communities, that includes elders, senior members of Aboriginal organisations and businesses, emerging leaders, together with heads of corporate, government and community organisations to share, inspire and connect.

Please contact the Aboriginal Affairs Strategic Partnerships Office on 08 8951 5183 should you have any questions.



Northern Territory Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation (NTSGAC)

A day of celebrations were held with the NTSGAC, celebrating three significant events:

- The official opening their new office at the Malak Shopping Centre
- The 12th National Apology Day, which is commemorated annually on 13 February and encourages remembrance of - and apology to - Stolen Generations and those whose lives have been blighted by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation, that then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivered to Parliament in 2008; and
- Celebrating Our Culture, which was through The Celebrating Aboriginal Culture (Australia Day) Grant, from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, to recognise and support how Aboriginal people want to celebrate and commemorate culture, language, history and achievements.

CEO, Maisie Austin, acknowledged and thanked the Chief Minister in his tireless work in securing the premises for the Stolen Generation, the NT Government for the funds that contributed to the day's events.

A minutes silence was held for all those we have lost and paid tribute to all the people in the community who have supported the NTSGAC over the years.



NTSGAC CEO Maisie Austin, Cindell Cray (OAA), NTSGAC Chair Eileen Cummings, Treaty Commissioner Mick Dodson, Judith Parnell and Steve Rossingh

FirstCircles

Supporting the next generation of Aboriginal leaders

First Circles March Workshop

The First Circles Leadership program held its third workshop in Jabiru on the 3rd to 5th March 2020. This is the first time members travelled to a regional location for a workshop.

The 3-day workshop involved designing, planning and preparing Cabinet meeting presentations for the then planned fourth and final meeting with NT Cabinet members.

Members had the chance to experience the Yellow Water Cruise, an Aboriginal owned and operated business located in the stunning Kakadu National Park.

Members heard from key Aboriginal speakers from the region sharing their leadership stories and valuable learnings, including the Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council, Matthew Ryan where he discussed the challenges of balancing his responsibility to his family, community and working in Local Government. The Mayor's presentation left the members feeling inspired.

On March 26 the Northern Territory Government announced that remote communities in the NT were to close to all non-essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In light of this, the scheduled May workshop was cancelled and will be postponed, with a new date to be confirmed in the second half of 2020.

The May workshop was to be the final of the four workshops that the First Circles members have been undertaking, which would have included a special meeting with NT Cabinet members, along with a leadership recognition reception.



Experiencing an Aboriginal Business, Yellow Waters Cruise



Day one members coming back together and checking in



Presentation from West Arnhem Regional Council Mayor, Matthew Ryan





Everyone Together

Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Everyone Together: 10 years Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Launch

Everyone Together is a 10-year blueprint for all government agencies to put Aboriginal people at the centre of government policy design and service delivery and to empower communities to determine their own futures.

It provides a framework for Government and Aboriginal Territorians to work better together to build genuine partnerships, improve government coordination and service delivery, and ensure Aboriginal Territorians take a lead role in decision making about matters that involve them, their families and communities.

The Strategy is underpinned by the principles of healing, respect and engagement and acknowledges the importance of:

- recognising the past, creating a space for healing, and moving forward with a genuine commitment to work together;
- ensuring that Aboriginal people are at the centre of NT Government policy design and service delivery; and
- language, culture and connection to country as integral to an individual's or community's capacity to engage in society.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister, undertook consultation with the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal organisations and all NT Government agencies in the development of this Strategy to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal people are reflected at all levels.

Aboriginal Territorians told Government they want to be part of the conversations that affect them and their communities, and must be a part of discussions from the beginning before policies are designed and remain engaged throughout implementation to make sure that service delivery is fit for purpose and achieves outcomes.

The Strategy has incorporated this feedback as its fundamental principles. The Strategy has 10 Focus Areas that highlight where we need to continue to work to improve outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians:

1. **Truth and Healing** – to empower Aboriginal Territorians to participate in and lead decision making by recognising and celebrating Aboriginal people, history and culture.
2. **Language and Culture** – to value and celebrate Aboriginal cultures and languages.
3. **Land and Sea** – to ensure Aboriginal Territorians to enjoy economic and social benefits from land and sea use and ownership.
4. **Children and Families** – to ensure strong Aboriginal families and children reach their full potential.
5. **Housing and Essential Infrastructure** – to ensure Aboriginal Territorians have access to appropriate and secure housing with supporting infrastructure.
6. **Health** – to ensure Aboriginal Territorians achieve positive social and emotional wellbeing, and live healthy lives.
7. **Education** – for Aboriginal students to be successful and confident in their education journey.
8. **Safety** – to ensure all Aboriginal Territorians are safe.
9. **Justice** – to build a justice system where Aboriginal Territorians are treated fairly and have access to a culturally responsive justice system.
10. **Jobs and Economy** – to empower Aboriginal Territorians to participate in and contribute to the local and broader economy.

The measures detailed in the Framework are all important actions and work that government is delivering on and will ensure accountability for government to maintain focus.





Barunga Festival
Photo Credit: Tourism NT-Peter Eve

Good news story

First Circles members have been busy helping with the COVID-19 response in their communities. Members have been able to put into practice some of the key leadership learnings from the three First Circles workshops held to date.

First Circles member Roland Nundhirribala from Numbulwar was a part of highly successful joint operation which was undertaken by officers from the Numbulwar Police Post of the Northern Territory Police Service and staff of Numbulwar Health Centre.

Over 121 doors were knocked on and in excess of 200 flyers with COVID-19 information distributed and explained to local Numbulwar people.

Remote Sergeant Christopher Masters, pictured, said “most locals were grateful for our information, but were concerned I wasn’t wearing a hat as it’s too hot to be out in the sun”.

First Class Constable Benjamin Evans was able to answer Numbulwar people’s questions about road blocks and travel restriction.

Roland who works at the Numbulwar Clinic as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer said “it was a good day”.

Events update

| Event | Date | Status |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| National Reconciliation Walks | 27 May – 3 June 2020 | Cancelled. |
| Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures | 31 July 2020 | Cancelled. |
| Barunga Festival | 5 – 7 June 2020 | Postponed until 11 - 13 Sept 20. |
| Gurindji Freedom Day Festival | 11 – 13 September 2020 | Cancelled. |
| NAIDOC Week | 5 July – 12 July 2020 | Postponed until 8 – 15 Nov 20. |
| National NAIDOC Ball – Alice Springs | 11 July 2020 | Cancelled. |
| NAIDOC Ball - Darwin | 11 July 2020 | Cancelled. |



First Circles member Roland Nundhirribala, handing out important information on COVID-19, to residents of Numbulwar.

Talk to us anytime!

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