

## APA COVID-19 Update – 27 August 2020

### Key messages

- Chair of the APA Women's Men's & Pelvic Health group Cath Willis and Amy Dawes, CEO of the Australasian Birth Trauma Association, met with Dr Fiona Martin MP last week to discuss improving access to pelvic health physio for all women in the perinatal years. Dr Martin took the message to Health Minister Greg Hunt and spoke on the topic in Federal Parliament yesterday. Please sign this [petition](#) to support this critical issue.
- Victoria's DHHS is seeking assistance from qualified allied health professionals to support and care for people residing in public and private residential aged care facilities.
- Physiotherapy input into an important research project on veterans' health is wanted. Please complete the quick survey in the DA section below on the issues and challenges of promoting physical activity self-management in DVA clients.
- InMotion magazine September issue will be out soon with a special COVID-19 focus including articles on acute care management and community rehab, and interviews with physios who have worked on the frontline and contracted the virus.
- Don't forget to complete the latest Member Survey to help us identify how to best represent you.

Latest government announcements			
Measure	Detail	Date	More information
More federal funding for aged care	Further \$171 million across the country	21/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Funding for mental health clinics in Victoria	The Australian Government will provide an additional \$31.9 million to create 15 mental health clinics across Victoria and further enhance essential support during the COVID-19 pandemic.	17/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Extra disability funding via PHNs	Federal Government to provide \$5.75 million to four Primary Health Networks to lead development of the Primary Care Enhancement Program for people with intellectual disability. Central and Eastern Sydney PHN, Western Victoria PHN, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN, and Tasmania PHN, were selected to spearhead the enhancement program over four years, with a view to national rollout.	26/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	New modelling confirms the vital importance of continuing support and resources provided to remote communities to protect them from COVID-19.	22/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>

New funding for COVID clinical trials	\$25 million for health and medical researchers to find breakthroughs in preventing and treating COVID-19.	20/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Newmarch House review findings released	Minister Colbeck releases review findings.	24/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
COVID Health Professionals Disability Advisory Service	The COVID-19 Health Professionals Disability Advisory Service is a telephone advisory service established by the Commonwealth Department of Health to provide specialised advice for health professionals involved in the care of people with disability diagnosed with COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Health professionals can call the service anytime between 8am - 9pm (AEST) Monday to Friday on 1800 131 330.		
ACT: call to join Council for Women	The ACT Government is calling for Canberra women to nominate for membership of the 2019-2020 ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women. The council is an independent voice, able to raise and debate issues that matter to women in the ACT.	21/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
NSW: New funding for suicide prevention	\$6.75 million investment to provide suicide prevention services to support individuals and families in regional communities.	25/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Pop-up testing clinics for freight workers	Dedicated pop-up COVID-19 testing clinics will open on key freight routes	24/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Small business grants extension	The NSW Government has extended the deadline for applications to the \$3,000 Small Business Recovery Grant and expanded the number of highly impacted industries able to apply, including physios. The deadline for applications has been extended to 31 August.		<a href="#">Guidelines</a> <a href="#">Applications</a>

<p>QLD: updated PPE guidance</p> <p>Government welcomes Federal Court ruling on borders</p> <p>New cluster triggers urgent measures</p>	<p>The Pandemic Response Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Healthcare Delivery (the Guidance) has been updated as of the 24/8/20. The Guidance has been developed by a panel of infection control and public health experts and is designed to provide clarity and consistency for decisions regarding PPE use in various pandemic settings. It is provided as guidance but does not reflect a mandatory directive.</p> <p>All other Hospital and Health Services remain on 'low risk', and PPE utilisation should not change until further notice. This is important in order to preserve stock of critical supplies. Healthcare providers in the 'low risk' geographic areas can be assured that the situation is being closely monitored, and updates to this risk categorisation will be issued as needed.</p> <p>Note that there will be additional advice forthcoming addressing PPE requirements in residential aged care, disability care and correctional facilities.</p> <p>Government welcomed Federal Court decision on the effectiveness of hard border restrictions in the fight against coronavirus in WA.</p> <p>Queensland Health is putting in place urgent extra protection measures after a further six people associated with the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre tested positive to COVID-19. This includes residential aged care and disability accommodation services being placed into effective lockdown with visitors being restricted.</p>	<p>26/08/20</p> <p>25/08/20</p> <p>22/08/20</p>	<p><a href="#">Guidance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Website</a></p> <p><a href="#">APA FAQs</a></p> <p><a href="#">Media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">Media release</a></p>
<p>SA: Paid pandemic leave introduced</p> <p>New COVID youth grants</p>	<p>Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme in South Australia, offering 'isolation' payments of up to \$1,500 for eligible workers who are required to quarantine, will be introduced.</p> <p>The Government has partnered with the Local Government Association (LGA) to provide South Australian councils the opportunity to apply for a one-off competitive grant of up to \$20,000 for individual councils, and up to \$50,000 for collaborations between councils and the non-for-profit sector. Initiatives funded by the Youth-led Recovery Grants are required to meet one or more of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving individual and/or community social and emotional wellbeing and resilience</li> </ul>	<p>25/08/20</p> <p>24/08/20</p>	<p><a href="#">Media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">Media release</a></p>

<p>COVID Marshalls update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving individual and/or community economic wellbeing and resilience</li> <li>• Reducing social isolation and increase the participation of priority groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, international students and the elderly.</li> <li>• Strengthening digital inclusion as a means to create social inclusion by facilitating digital access, digital literacy and digital enablement.</li> </ul> <p>There is no mandated directive for physio practices to have a nominated COVID marshal however it is recommended that all practices do the 30 min online training as a precaution.</p> <p>Re: personal carers working at multiple residential aged care facilities (RACF), the restrictions coming into effect on 27 August do not apply to physios. However, physios must notify each facility of the employment arrangements they have with other RACF and notify each facility if they become aware of a COVID-19 case identified at their other place(s) of employment.</p>		<p><a href="#">Training</a></p> <p><a href="#">More</a></p>
<p>TAS: Pandemic leave extended to Tas</p>	<p>Tasmanian workers are now eligible for a \$1,500 Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment if they cannot work because they need to self-isolate or quarantine.</p>	<p>26/08/20</p>	<p><a href="#">Media release</a></p>
<p><b>Victoria</b></p>			

DHHS call out for support	DHHS is seeking assistance from qualified allied health professionals to support and care for people residing in public and private residential aged care facilities. This support involves the provision of basic care (such as bathing, dressing, continence management, mobility/transfers and feeding) for confirmed/suspected COVID positive residents and non-COVID residents. Varying shifts are available – morning, afternoon and evening/overnight.		<a href="#">More</a>
Legislative change	Legislation changes will be introduced into the Victorian Parliament to ensure the public health directions protecting Victorians from coronavirus can continue to be enforced.	24/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Online wellbeing support for families	The Victorian Government is helping parents and carers manage home learning and stay resilient during the coronavirus pandemic by providing a range of free online resources.	26/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Protecting healthcare heroes	A big program of work is already underway to drive down coronavirus infections in our healthcare workers as new research released today confirms that most cases are acquiring the virus at work.	25/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
Apply for sporting club grants	Grants for training of coaches available.	26/08/20	<a href="#">Media release</a>
DHHS updated guidance	The APA keeps you informed of updates as they happen. The latest DHHS guidance, including the inclusion of health workers (including allied health) providing care to people with a chronic disease management plan, can be found on its website.		<a href="#">DHHS FAQs</a>

### State information on easing COVID-19 restrictions

[ACT](#)  
[NSW](#)  
[NT](#)  
[QLD](#)  
[SA](#)  
[TAS](#)  
[VIC](#)  
[WA](#)

### Latest advocacy and emerging issues

Area	Action	Deadline	Details
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	<p>The survey is anonymous and takes 10-15 minutes to complete. If you'd like to take part in this survey, follow this link</p> <p><i>Active Choices</i> is a research initiative led by <i>The University of Queensland (UQ)</i>. The initiative aims to link and empower DVA clients towards physical activity opportunities within their local communities.</p> <p>The UQ team is currently seeking to partner with Brisbane-based exercise physiology and physiotherapy service providers, to offer access to the <i>Active Choices</i> support program for DVA clients who are interested in self-managing their physical activity. The program may also benefit DVA clients seeking to reconnect with their local communities following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Benefits of being involved in the initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a 12-week behavioural support program that can help your clients manage physical activity;</li> <li>• Development of social networks and connections for your clients within local active communities;</li> <li>• Financial support for your clients to access group-based physical activities.</li> </ul> <p>If you are interested in partnering with UQ on <i>Active Choices</i>, or want to find out more about the initiative and its benefits, contact the Senior Research Assistant, Dr Zoe Papinczak, email <a href="mailto:z.papinczak@uq.edu.au">z.papinczak@uq.edu.au</a> or telephone 07 3365 7453.</p>		
NDIS	<p><u>Submissions in progress</u></p> <p>We are currently working on a submission to the Joint Standing Committee's inquiry into the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.</p> <p>We are currently working on a submission to the NDIA on Support Coordinators</p> <p>The APA will put in a submission to DSS on the Disability Strategy</p> <p><u>Projects</u></p> <p>The APA is involved in the review of the Independent Assessor project due for roll-out at the start of October.</p> <p>The APA was invited for consultation regarding the ECEI Reset project that is currently underway in collaboration between AHPA and Nous consultancy.</p> <p>Content development for the online modules for the JMF grant continue to progress and are currently undergoing peer review. The course should be publicly available at the start of October. Filming for the awareness campaign is currently on hold, due to government restrictions in Victoria.</p>	<p>Aug 28</p> <p>Sept 13</p> <p>Sept 30</p>	
Telehealth	Ongoing advocacy and the telehealth evaluation continues.		

	Medibank has announced an indefinite extension of telehealth rebates for allied health practitioners. BUPA has also announced that telehealth rebates are “here to stay”.		
<b>Professional development</b>			
Free online learning modules	There are 80 free member eTalks and online learning modules available. The learning modules can be found in the eTalks category and a new category on cpd4physio called Free Learning.		<a href="#">CPD4Physios</a>
Live lecture series	To ensure that learning can continue during these times, we are pleased to introduce our new online APA Lectures – Live offering which is essentially our usual evening lectures that are now being delivered live online.		<a href="#">Details</a>
Professional Development (PD)	Our library of online professional development offerings is continuing to grow. Head to <a href="http://www.cpd4physios.com.au">www.cpd4physios.com.au</a> . We are also constantly monitoring and adjusting to jurisdictional restrictions to be able to safely deliver face-to-face PD where possible. The safety of our participants, members and communities is our top priority. As such, several new protocols have been introduced throughout our training facilities to adhere to the COVID-19 Safety Plan. See our current list of face-to-face PD at <a href="https://australian.physio/pd">https://australian.physio/pd</a> Alternative methods of delivering our traditional of face-to-face courses is being evaluated.		<a href="#">Details</a>  <a href="#">Details</a>
<b>Communications</b>			
DHHS update on protecting health workers	DHHS has released new guidance on protecting health workers and the latest understanding of how COVID-19 can spread within healthcare settings – both hospitals and aged care facilities.		<a href="#">Details</a>
CRANApplus mental health support	CRANApplus has been funded by the Dept of Health to deliver the <i>Mental Health Training for Health Professionals in Drought and Bushfire Affected Areas Project</i> .		<a href="#">Details</a>
Third iteration of member survey	Members received a final survey recently to finalise our information gathering to support member needs over the coming 12 months. Please complete it ASAP.		Ecomms
Decision making tree for essential treatment	To support you in your clinical judgement during Stage 4 restrictions we have developed a decision making tree with criteria for essential treatment.		<a href="#">Weblink</a>
Information for NSW members re gym marshalls	The intention of the NSW Health directive is to ensure gyms have proper hygiene practices and maintain adequate social distancing. The definition of what constitutes a 'gym' isn't clear. However, it makes sense that physio practices with high traffic, those that run groups and classes and/or have large 'gym' spaces demonstrate their commitment to COVID infection control and complete a COVID safe plan.		<a href="#">Weblink</a>



New guidance on the use of face masks and shields	The Department of Health has published new guidance on the use of face masks and shields by healthcare workers in areas with significant community transmission of COVID--19. The guideline can be found on the Department of Health website		<a href="#">Weblink</a>
SA update	Marshals and work at multiple aged care sites		<a href="#">Weblink</a> <a href="#">Weblink</a>
NSW update	Extension of small business recovery grant		<a href="#">Weblink</a>
VIC update	Call out for VIC allied health support in aged care.		<a href="#">Weblink</a>
<b>Business resources</b>			
Updated HR in Practice restrictions guide	Updated guide here from HR in Practice for VIC stage 4 and stage 3 workplace relations matters for Victorian members		<a href="#">Guide</a>
Victorian members - free access to HR Portal	HR Portal connects people and organisations to expert advice through our online resource database. This resource is usually available to the APA Business Group Members only, however during these uncertain times, HR Portal has been made accessible to APA members who are affected by the stage 3 restrictions in Victoria. APA members can access the portal by visiting the <a href="#">APA Tools webpage section</a> and selecting HR Portal within the <i>Business group resources</i> section of the page.		<a href="#">More information</a>
HR case study	HR In Practice case study: The piece – which outlines that primary facts of the case, highlights the implications of the proceedings for members' practices and underlines important considerations for members to mitigate their risk – is accompanied by a microlearning session scheduled for release soon.		<a href="#">Details</a>
JobKeeper and FWA microlearning	New microlearning from HR in Practice available on HR in Practice Portal		<a href="#">HR in Practice Portal</a>
Coronavirus guide	The HR In Practice Coronavirus Guides for members has been updated.	12/05/20	<a href="#">Updated guide</a>
Business continuity	Updated business content as below from William Buck on Business continuity on COVID19 page		<a href="#">Resources</a>
<b>Other resources</b>			
Federal government mental health resource	Head to Health provides links to trusted Australian online and phone supports, resources and treatment options.		<a href="#">Resource</a>
Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines for outbreaks in residential care facilities	Communicable Diseases Network Australia have updated their guidelines.	12/06/20	<a href="#">Details</a>
AHPA Telehealth Guidelines	AHPA has published a useful and succinct guide to telehealth service delivery for allied health practitioners.		<a href="#">Guidelines</a>

Lifeline Webinar	This webinar will give practitioners more insights into mental health (especially depression) and how this may be affecting their patients, family, friends, colleagues or themselves.	22/07/20	<a href="#"><u>Details</u></a>
APA Hydrotherapy Guidelines	The Aquatic Physiotherapy Committee and several other prominent Aquatic physiotherapists have developed the following document for the provision of hydrotherapy during this time.		<a href="#"><u>Guidelines</u></a>
APA Telehealth Guidelines	The APA Telehealth Guidelines is a comprehensive document that clearly outlines how telehealth should be conducted by practitioners.		<a href="#"><u>Telehealth Guidelines</u></a>
JoP clinical practice recommendations	Physiotherapy management for COVID-19 in the acute hospital setting		<a href="#"><u>Resource</u></a>