

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**It is clear that we are in the midst of a very challenging time and that we expect it to get worse before it gets better. We are preparing plans for dealing with a number of risks that COVID-19 may present to people we support.**

We expect that there may be a closure period for schools, day activity programs and many community based events.

It has been made clear that as a whole we should be limiting our exposure to groups and crowds and practicing social distancing.

Within Identitywa, preparations are in place with regard to administrative and executive roles to ensure the continuity of all critical functions should we need to self isolate.

At this time, as always, the focus for Identitywa is the care and safety of people we support and our workers. We have determined that the wellbeing of people living within our houses is our first priority. This means that other services and supports may be limited or discontinued to ensure that our houses are well supported and able to provide a high level of care.

Therefore, this decision will impact on the availability of respite, in home support and one-to-one support. We are expecting that some of our workers may be unavailable and therefore it is critical that we ensure a solid reliable workforce.

We are aware that there are individuals and families within the community who may require

support during the next weeks and we suggest you raise these discussions with your Team Leader when this becomes necessary.

These are the guidelines to protect people within Identitywa homes:

- We have suspended all group activities, outings and trips
- We have postponed visits from non-essential external providers
- We have informed regular visitors and families of COVID-19, and request that they only undertake essential visits. Young children should not visit as they are generally unable to comply with standard hygiene precautions.
- Visitors are recorded on a register of visitors and are asked to comply with the following guidance:
  - **Visit only your family member**
  - **Maintain an appropriate social distance**
  - **Limit your movement in communal areas; and**
  - **Perform hand hygiene before entering and after leaving the home.**

Please be assured we are updating people we support, families and staff with information as it becomes available. These updates will be on the Identitywa website, our Facebook page as well as email.

**Marina Re, Chief Executive Officer**



*The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*

The Commission has suspended public hearings, due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. All other public events have been suspended until further notice.