



MEDIA RELEASE

Review of isolation requirement for people arriving from New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

EMT met today, Thursday 20 August, to consider the current requirement for people arriving from New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) to undergo 14 days isolation on the island. The current requirement extends until the end of this month, 31 August 2020, and is reviewed each week. Whilst there is a low risk of the virus coming to the island from either of these areas, there is a risk that removing our current requirement may affect the island's status in respect to people returning to Queensland (QLD). A further consideration is the situation in Victoria (VIC), and it is good to see that the infection rates are decreasing there.

Restrictions that are being applied to visitors and travellers returning to mainland Australia from the island, are up to the respective state or territory jurisdiction, and the uncertainty associated with these are impacting on visitors deciding to travel to Norfolk Island.

To provide some certainty around the local restrictions it has been decided to move to a month-by-month timeframe for the restrictions. With respect to the quarantine restrictions applying to NSW and ACT arrivals, a decision will be made next week. Subsequently, if a decision is made for an extension, the requirement will apply until the end of September.

Physical distancing and dancing at licenced venues

Licensed venues have been identified as high-risk areas for transmission of coronavirus. The combination of groups of people enjoying themselves and alcohol have resulted in physical distancing requirements not being adhered to. This is particularly a risk, for venues where dancing is taking place, often in confined spaces.

On the mainland for the most part dancing is not permitted, and venues have supervisors to ensure that physical distancing requirements are always being observed. Locally, it has been decided that up to four couples at a time, may be allowed on a dance floor whilst maintaining social distancing between each couple.

It is important to ensure that when visiting these venues, patrons abide by each premises' COVID-19 requirements including filling out customer registers, practicing hand hygiene and other physical distancing requirements.

Call for nominations for business representative and community representative on EMT

EMNIC has decided to expand the representation on the Emergency Management Team (EMT) and is seeking nominations to be appointed as the business representative and a community representative on the team. Nominations are sought from individuals who believe they can provide feedback in respect to business and community issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to be able to work constructively as part of a team, developing policies to be followed in managing the pandemic.

If you are interested in nominating for the role, please send an expression of interest outlining your suitability for the role to controller@emni.gov.nf.

20th August 2020

Detective Acting Sergeant

Bradley Pumphrey

Incident Controller