



## MEDIA RELEASE

### COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR NORFOLK ISLAND

To assist the community, EMNI provides the below overview and update on travel restrictions that are relevant to Norfolk Island. However, as the COVID-19 emergency changes daily worldwide, please note that this information is current at time of release and could change. Contact the Office of the Administrator if you have specific questions on +6723 22152 or email [office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au).

#### **Inbound travel to Norfolk Island**

To protect the Norfolk Island community from COVID-19, a travel ban was put in place for inward travel to the island effective 17 March 2020. The conditions at that time were that only current residents and essential services personnel are permitted to travel to Norfolk Island under this travel ban. Anyone returning to the island needs to self-isolate for 14 days.

There were, and continue to be, limited exemptions, including stringent processes around medical evacuation flights and essential services personnel. Please read the 24 March 2020 EMNI issued media release 'Essential Services Personnel Norfolk Island' for the details on this rigorous process.

#### **What has changed effective 3.30pm 27 March 2020:**

- Only Norfolk Island residents requiring essential or compassionate travel to Norfolk Island will be considered. This will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Incident Management Team (IMT).
- If you have travelled from outside Australia within the last 14 days, you will be required to go into self-isolation **in Australia**, either in Brisbane or Sydney, for 14 days prior to returning to Norfolk Island, effective immediately. Accommodation and meal costs for the mainland isolation period will be covered.
- When you return to Norfolk Island, you will be required to undertake a further 14 days of self-isolation.
- On Norfolk Island, you will NOT be able to isolate with others who did not travel with you, including your family members or friends who live in the same residence. You will be required to make fully independent living arrangements for the duration of your self-isolation period. If this poses logistical issues for you, please discuss with the Welfare Functional Services Coordinator on +6723 50855 or email [sharyn.menzies@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:sharyn.menzies@nirc.gov.nf). For out of hours' assistance call the NIPF on +6723 22222.

#### **Outbound travel from Norfolk Island**

Queensland restricted access at its borders on 25 March 2020. Anyone travelling to Queensland, including Norfolk Island residents, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival.

There are exemptions including: medical treatment, compassionate grounds, those travelling to and from work, court orders, freight and emergency workers.

Regarding medical treatment, patients will need to provide a Medicare card and a form demonstrating that they are attending a medical appointment.

At this stage, domestic travellers to New South Wales, including Norfolk Islanders, will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This could change.

**What has changed effective 3.30pm 27 March 2020:**

- Non-essential travel for residents to the mainland is no longer permitted if you plan on returning to Norfolk Island prior to 30 June 2020. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the IMT. Essential travel includes medical and compassionate reasons.

**Outbound travel from mainland Australia**

Effective from 25 March 2020, a ban on Australians travelling overseas was put in place. Exemptions apply to some travellers and include:

- citizens who normally live overseas
- where travel is essential or necessary
- where travel is in the national interest and on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.

To have your travel plans approved by the IMT please contact +6723 22222 or email [glenn.elder@afp.gov.au](mailto:glenn.elder@afp.gov.au).

**Glenn Elder**  
**Incident Controller**  
**EMNI IMT**  
**27 March 2020**