

## Information note – COVID-19 situation update June 2020

*This is a background document only and does not purport to be a comprehensive discussion of the issues involved. It does not represent the view of the Fair Work Commission on any issue.*

This information note provides an update of the current rate of transmission of COVID-19 in Australia, with a particular focus on the current spike in Victoria.

The Commonwealth Department of Health provides a daily update on COVID-19 cases from when the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Australia in late January 2020. The data shows that:

- As at 24 June 2020, Australia has had a total of 7521 cases of COVID-19, of which 6924 people have recovered, and 103 people have died.
- 30 new cases have been recorded in the previous 24 hours, the majority of which are from Victoria (20 cases).

Within the Commonwealth Department of Health, the COVID-19 National Incident Room Surveillance Team has been releasing regular Epidemiology reports since the week of 26 January to 1 February 2020, based on data extracted from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).<sup>1</sup> The latest of these reports covers the fortnightly reporting period ending 7 June 2020 and based on data available at that time found that 'the number of new cases in all jurisdictions continues to decline, or remain very low' as well as noting testing rates continuing to be high.<sup>2</sup> The incidence of COVID-19 had markedly reduced since the peak in mid-March, due to a combination of case identification, social distancing, public health measures and a reduction in international travel.<sup>3</sup>

The latest epidemiology report also noted that:

'Of the 147 cases notified between 25 May and 7 June, 63% acquired their infection overseas. The proportion of cases locally acquired has dropped substantially to 28% of new cases this period compared with 50% and greater observed since 30 March 2020. Of the cases considered to be locally-acquired over this period, most were associated with contacts of confirmed cases or were associated with known outbreaks.'<sup>4</sup>

More recent daily data shows that this remains the case up until 25 June at the national level, with a continued flattening of the curve (Chart 1).

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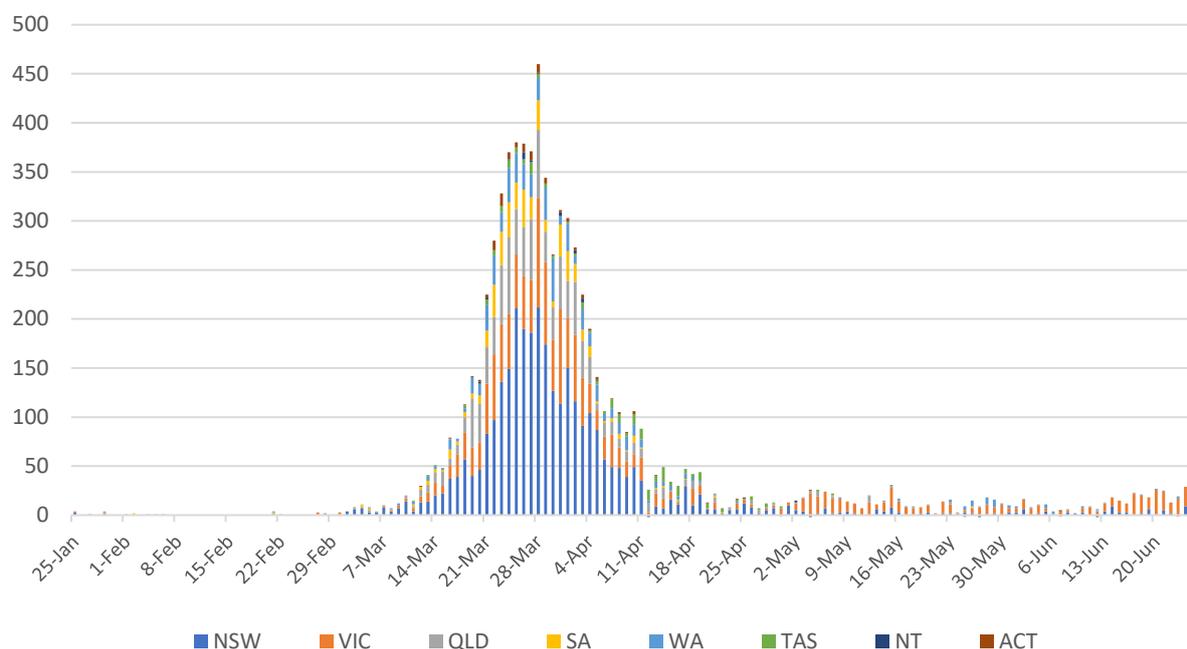
<sup>1</sup> Department of Health (2020), [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) epidemiology reports, Australia, 2020](#), Commonwealth Government of Australia, 12 June.

<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 National Incident Room Surveillance Team (2020), [COVID-19, Australia: Epidemiology Report 18: Reporting fortnight ending 7 June 2020](#), Communicable Diseases Intelligence Volume 44, 5 June.

<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 National Incident Room Surveillance Team (2020), [COVID-19, Australia: Epidemiology Report 18: Reporting fortnight ending 7 June 2020](#), Communicable Diseases Intelligence Volume 44, 5 June, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> COVID-19 National Incident Room Surveillance Team (2020), [COVID-19, Australia: Epidemiology Report 18: Reporting fortnight ending 7 June 2020](#), Communicable Diseases Intelligence Volume 44, 5 June, p. 1.

**Chart 1: Net daily confirmed COVID-19 cases in Australia in states and territories**



Note: While not an official government source, the data is obtained from a variety of [state and commonwealth sources](#).

Source: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Australia](#), covid19data.com.au, 25 June 2020.

As shown in chart 1, despite the general success at the national level, there has been a recent increase in cases in Victoria, including instances of community transmission which have caused concern amongst health officials. Chart 2 show how the rate of cases in Victoria follows a similar trajectory as the national data until early May where the curve starts gradually rising, and then in mid-June where there is a noticeable uptick in cases.

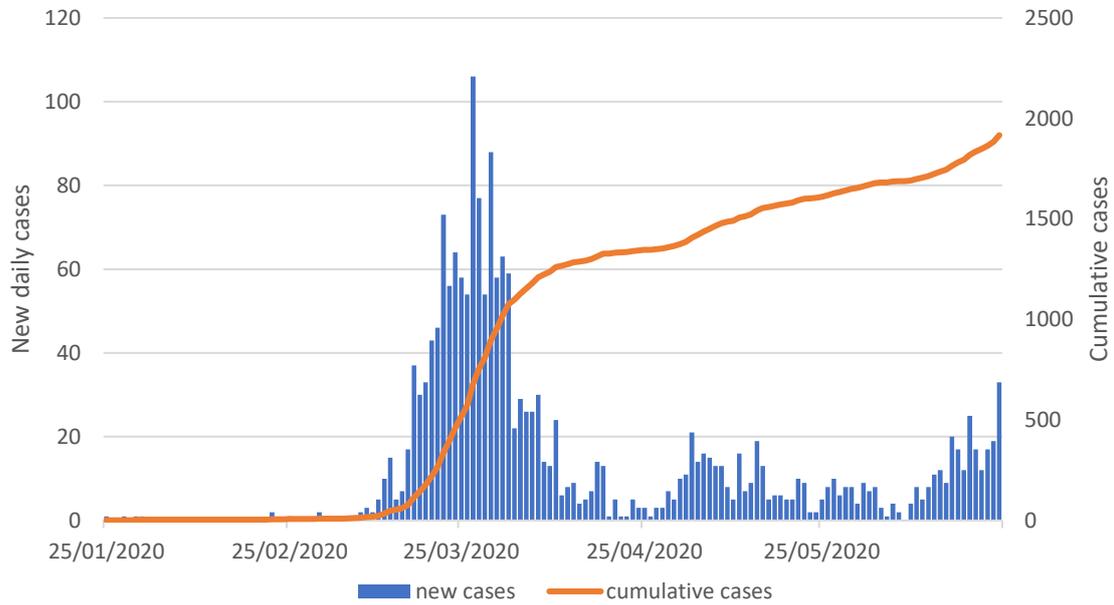
On 21 June, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) released a statement on recent outbreaks of COVID-19 in Victoria, saying that of the newly confirmed cases in the past 7 days that 116 (83 per cent) were reported in Victoria with many of these cases associated with community transmission. It noted that due to the continued growth in confirmed cases overseas and the number of Australians still overseas who may return; as well as sporadic community transmission in Australia, that it remains probable that Australia will experience periodic outbreaks.<sup>5</sup>

On 22 June, the Victorian Government announced that it would not be easing restrictions as initially planned because of the increase in cases. It also reimposed some restrictions, such as limiting the number of people you can have at your home to 5 persons and outdoor gatherings to 10 persons. Restaurants, pubs, auction halls, community halls, libraries, museums and places of worship

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health (2020), [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) statement on recent outbreaks of COVID-9 in Victoria](#), Commonwealth Government of Australia, 21 June.

remain at a maximum of 20 people in any one space until 12 July and businesses including gyms, cinemas, theatres and TABs can open, with a maximum of 20 people per space.<sup>6</sup>

**Chart 2: Daily and cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases in Victoria**



Source: Victorian Department of Health and Human Service, [Coronavirus COVID-19 in Victoria](#), last updated 25/06/2020.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Health and Human Services (2020), [Victoria's restriction levels](#), Victorian Government, updated 25 June.