



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Friday 08 January 2021

10AM to 11AM

Canberra - Parliament House (ACT)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | |
| 2. | Coronavirus Update <i>(Oral Update)</i> | Dr Kelly |
| 3. | Border Management Issues | |
| (a) | Management of COVID-19 Variants <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister Dr Kelly |
| (b) | Update on COVID-19 Air Safety <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister Dr Kelly |
| 4. | COVID-19 Vaccine Update <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister Dr Kelly Dr Murphy |



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0014/NATCAB
08 January 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Paper | SM21/0014 | BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the epidemiological update by the Chief Medical Officer.
2. Agreed:
 - (a) Greater Brisbane, defined as Logan, Ipswich, Brisbane, Moreton and Redlands will be considered a national hotspot from 6pm 8 January 2021 to 6pm 11 January 2021
 - (b) any individual that has been in the Greater Brisbane hotspot since 2 January 2021 should abide by the Queensland Chief Health Officer's direction regardless of where they are located
 - (c) as a national position, individuals should not travel to hotspots, nor depart a hotspot.
3. Noted that the Commonwealth's National Coordination Mechanism will liaise closely with the Queensland Government on issues associated with the response to the non-health aspects of the brief COVID-19 lockdown commencing later today.
4. Considered the paper titled Management of COVID-19 Variants.
5. Noted:
 - (a) the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2, including the imperative to prevent new more transmissible variants becoming established in Australia

- (b) the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) statement on new SARS-CoV-2 variants.
6. Noted the importance of rapid genomic testing availability in all jurisdictions.
7. Agreed, due to the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2, States and Territories will implement the following temporary international air passenger cap ('passenger caps') arrangements from 15 January 2021 to 15 February 2021:
- (a) Victoria will maintain current levels
 - (b) New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland will halve current levels
 - (c) South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory will settle bespoke arrangements with the Prime Minister.
8. Agreed:
- (a) bespoke passenger cap arrangements between the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') and States and Territories, including Howard Springs and defence arrangements in the Northern Territory, will be maintained
 - (b) previous caps will be reinstated by 15 February 2021, subject to a review of the temporary arrangements before this time with a view to increasing passenger caps if considered safe and appropriate.
9. Considered the paper titled Update on COVID-19 Safe Air Travel.
10. Noted the AHPPC advice on:
- (a) Safe Air Travel – Enhancing End-To-End Mitigations – International
 - (b) Mask Wearing on Domestic Flights.
11. Agreed the following measures for infection prevention and control in relation to international travel:
- (a) travellers to Australia must return a negative COVID-19 test result prior to departure to Australia, unless exempt
 - (b) passengers:
 - (i) must wear masks throughout international flights
 - (ii) will be advised to wear masks while in international airports overseas

- (c) international air crew must:
 - (i) wear masks and other personal protective equipment where appropriate
 - (ii) undergo a COVID-19 test in Australia every seven days or on arrival
 - (iii) continue to quarantine in dedicated quarantine facilities between international flights or for 14 days
 - (iv) not reposition in Australia for an outgoing international flight unless they do so on a crew-only flight
- (d) airlines:
 - (i) must have appropriate infection prevention and control measures on aircraft
 - (ii) to commence implementing pre-flight testing for travellers as soon as practicable where not already in place
- (e) all individuals must wear masks within Australian international airport environments
- (f) jurisdictions will work towards a national standard as soon as possible that will ensure quarantine workers are tested daily for COVID-19, to enable a rapid response to any transmission from travellers in hotel quarantine.

12. Agreed the AHPPC, in consultation with relevant Commonwealth agencies, work to adopt a nationally consistent approach to the measures for infection prevention and control in relation to international travel, as soon as practicable, with full implementation by 31 January 2021.

13. Noted Commonwealth facilitated flights, where passengers will be quarantining in dedicated facilities upon arrival, will continue subject to the measures for infection prevention and control and in view of the strong mitigating measures already in place for these passengers and facilities.

14 Agreed the following measures to prevent geographical spread of COVID-19 in relation to domestic travel:

- (a) mandatory mask wearing on domestic flights for all persons in Australia, excluding children 12 and under and those with other accepted exemptions, with jurisdictions to determine any appropriate local exemptions
- (b) mandatory mask wearing in domestic airports.

15. Considered the paper titled COVID-19 Vaccine Update.
16. Agreed the National Cabinet will consider the implementation of Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program at its next meeting, following:
 - (a) consideration by Health Ministers and Department of Health CEOs in mid-January
 - (b) agreement of bilateral implementation plans in mid-January.
17. Agreed the National Cabinet, at its next meeting, will consider a nationally consistent approach to the use of public health orders for requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for priority cohorts in critical and high risk sectors, following discussions convened by Department of Health CEOs and the AHPPC.
18. Agreed the National Cabinet will meet on a fortnightly basis with the next meeting scheduled for 22 January 2021 or earlier if required.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday 05 February 2021

10AM to 12PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

| NO | RESPONSIBLE |
|---|--|
| 1. Strategic Discussion | Prime Minister |
| 2. Economic Outlook and Jobs <i>(Presentation)</i> | Dr Kennedy Mr Lowe |
| 3. Coronavirus Update | |
| (a) Epidemiological Update <i>(Paper)</i> | Dr Kelly |
| (b) Update on Vaccine Strategy <i>(Paper)</i> | Dr Kelly Dr Murphy Adj. Professor Skerritt |
| 4. Border Management Issues | |
| (a) Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister |
| (b) Seasonal Workers Update <i>(Oral Update)</i> | Dr Kelly |
| 5. Items for Endorsement / Correspondence for Noting | |
| (a) AHPPC Supporting Documentation <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| (b) Update on Implementation of Recommendations to the National Review of Hotel Quarantine Arrangements <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard <i>(Paper)</i> | |

(d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions
(*Paper*)

6. Other Business



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0071/NATCAB
05 February 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0071 | ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND JOBS |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) Presentation by the Commonwealth Treasury Secretary on economic outlook and jobs
 - (b) Paper titled Economic Support Package – Enrolment and Application Data.
2. Agreed the Commonwealth will investigate ways in which additional data relating to unemployment can be made available to States and Territories to assist them to provide targeted support measures within their jurisdictions.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0075/NATCAB
05 February 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0075 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) epidemiological update by the Chief Medical Officer
 - (b) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) supporting documentation
 - (c) update on the implementation of recommendations to the National Review of Hotel Quarantine Arrangements
 - (d) AHPPC updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools
 - (e) Social Policy and Mental Health dashboard.
2. Considered the Paper titled Update on Vaccine Strategy.
3. Noted the:
 - (a) update on Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program
 - (b) Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) process to review COVID-19 vaccines.

4. Agreed:
 - (a) in the context of a changing COVID-19 risk environment and in order to bring together economic and health considerations, the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, together with State and Territory counterparts, will establish a taskforce to report back to the next meeting of National Cabinet on:
 - (i) the risk profile over the next six months, considering risk indicators including new strains of COVID-19, the strength of responses to date and the vaccine rollout
 - (ii) implications of a changed risk profile for policy settings and options on how policy settings could change to ensure greater consistency, certainty and coordination across jurisdictions in the management of the pandemic going forward.
 - (b) First Secretaries will be able to appoint experts to the taskforce and draw on existing expertise in such groups as the AHPPC for independent input to their report.
5. Agreed the next meeting will be on 5 March 2021.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0070/NATCAB
05 February 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0070 | BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals.
2. Agreed:
 - (a) to continue to prioritise the return of Australians within international air passenger arrivals caps, noting international students, seasonal workers and other economic cohorts should not be counted under the caps
 - (b) the international air passenger arrivals caps for New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia will be in place until 11.59pm 30 April 2021, at which time all caps are due to expire.
3. Noted:
 - (a) the international air passenger arrivals caps:
 - (i) will revert to pre-8 January 2021 levels in New South Wales and Queensland at 12.01am on 15 February 2021
 - (ii) will increase in Victoria to 1,310 per week from 12.01am 15 February 2021, with subsequent increases to be determined and agreed bilaterally between the Commonwealth and the Victorian Government
 - (iii) will increase to 530 per week in South Australia at 12.01am on 15 February 2021

- (iv) are currently subject to further review for Western Australia
 - (b) existing arrangements for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory will remain in place.
4. Noted:
- (a) the update on seasonal workers by the Chief Medical Officer
 - (b) the Chief Medical Officer and the Minister for International Development and the Pacific will continue to scope options to provide direct assistance to certain Pacific Labour Scheme countries to support the recruitment and increased intake of seasonal workers.
5. Noted data from the Australian Border Force (ABF) as at 8 January 2021 showing:
- (a) 86 per cent of international arrivals were either Australian citizens or permanent residents (with associated family groups)
 - (b) 14 per cent were foreign nationals and the ABF Commissioner had further reduced exemptions for international travel since the beginning on 2021.
6. Agreed the ABF will provide regular data to States and Territory Governments on the composition of international passenger arrivals.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Friday 05 March 2021

10AM to 12PM

Sydney Commonwealth Parliament Offices, 1 Bligh Street (NSW)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | Prime Minister |
| 2. | COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response - Taskforce Report <i>(Memorandum)</i> | Mr Gaetjens |
| 3. | Coronavirus Update | |
| | (a) Epidemiological Update <i>(Paper)</i> | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| | (b) Vaccine Rollout <i>(Paper)</i> | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| 4. | Border Management Issues | |
| | (a) Update on Pacific Workers <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister Professor Kelly |
| | (b) Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister |
| 5. | Items for Endorsement / Correspondence for Noting | |
| | (a) AHPPC Supporting Documentation <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| | (b) AHPPC Statement on Managed Quarantine Continuous Improvement Framework <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| | (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| | (d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions <i>(Paper)</i> | |

- (e) Economic Support Package Enrolment and Application Data
(Paper)
 - (f) Sharing Commonwealth Unemployment Data for Targeted State
and Territory Support Measures
(Paper)
 - (g) National Cabinet Reform Committee Minutes
(Paper)
 - (h) Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) - Update on
Terms of Reference
(Paper)
6. Other Business



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0174
05 March 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0174 | CABINET CONFIDENTIALITY |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted:
 - (a) the effectiveness of the National Cabinet's collective decision-making had been strengthened by the application of Cabinet confidentiality provisions
 - (b) the Commonwealth will introduce legislation to:
 - (i) remove references to Council of Australian Governments (COAG) across Commonwealth statutes
 - (ii) expressly recognise the confidentiality of National Cabinet documents and records in the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
 - (c) States and Territories may also consider the adequacy of their Freedom of Information legislation to protect National Cabinet documents.
2. Agreed to continue to provide public support for the application of Cabinet confidentiality provisions to the National Cabinet.

Original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0070/NATCAB/2
05 March 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0070 | BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Update on Pacific Workers.
2. Agreed:
 - (a) to pilot pre-departure quarantine arrangements for Pacific workers, enabling them to travel to Australia without the need to undertake quarantine on arrival
 - (b) States and Territories wishing to participate will advise the Commonwealth by writing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business
 - (c) the National Cabinet will be updated following implementation of the pilot.
3. Noted the Commonwealth will finalise the pilot terms, including quarantine requirements, with participating States and Territories and with Vanuatu and Fiji as pilot countries and that South Australia have indicated their interest in this arrangement.
4. Considered the Paper titled Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals.
5. Noted:
 - (a) returning Australians continue to be prioritised within international air passenger arrivals caps with the following caps arrangements set to expire on 30 April 2021
 - (i) New South Wales – 430 per day (3,010 per week)

- (ii) Victoria – currently 0 per week to be restored to 1,310 per week as soon as possible as advised by the Victorian Premier
 - (iii) Queensland – 1,000 per week plus 300 per week surge
 - (iv) Western Australia – 512 per week, increasing to 900 by 1 March 2021 and restored to 1,025 by 26 March 2021
 - (v) South Australia – 530 per week
- (b) the National Cabinet will need to take a decision at its next meeting on the future of caps post 30 April 2021, to provide certainty to airlines and airports well ahead of the current expiry date
- (c) the data included in the paper on:
- (i) utilisation rates
 - (ii) composition of international arrivals
 - (iii) arrival trends.
6. Noted the Paper titled Data on Domestic Border Exemptions.

Original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0075/NATCAB/2
05 March 2021

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0075 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) epidemiological update by the Chief Medical Officer
 - (b) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Supporting Documentation
 - (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard.
2. Considered the Memorandum titled COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response – Taskforce Report.
3. Endorsed the Terms of Reference for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce (the Taskforce) with one addition:
 - (a) recognises the authority of States and Territories to respond to local conditions and circumstances while seeking to act in accordance with the Principles and Framework established by the National Cabinet through the COVID-19 Risk and Recovery Taskforce
4. Noted the first report of the Taskforce, including a:
 - (a) draft framework for national reopening in 2021
 - (b) Common Operating Picture of metrics to monitor risks and changes and to track progress in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Agreed:
 - (a) the National Cabinet will review the applicability in 2021 of the key principles underpinning the Framework for National Reopening agreed by the National Cabinet in November 2020
 - (b) the schedule of reporting for the Taskforce over the next six months, with a review to occur by August 2021
 - (c) the Taskforce will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and add new data and results to the Common Operating Picture as they become available to provide a rolling risk matrix to underpin reopening the economy.
6. Considered the Paper titled COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout.
7. Noted the:
 - (a) update on Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program which began on 22 February 2021
 - (b) update on the new Vaccine Schedule under the National Partnership for COVID-19 Response.
8. Agreed:
 - (a) to amend the relevant regulations in each jurisdiction to harmonise State and Territory pharmacy regulations in each jurisdiction to ensure pharmacists can administer COVID-19 vaccines in the national roll-out
 - (b) the adoption of the Vaccine Common Operating Picture and that a decision will be made by National Cabinet at or before the next meeting regarding its public release
 - (c) the Vaccination Rollout Update will be published weekly from the week beginning 8 March 2021, with a view to move to a daily release as soon as possible
 - (d) that jurisdictions will work towards providing daily data to the Commonwealth on occupational groups receiving vaccinations under Phase 1(a)
 - (e) The Commonwealth is committed to working towards sharing daily aged care data.

9. Noted the Paper titled AHPPC Statement on Hotel Quarantine Continuous Improvement Framework will be the subject of further consideration by AHPPC before returning to the National Cabinet for consideration before being publically released.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0071/NATCAB/2
05 March 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0071 | ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND JOBS |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) Paper titled Economic Support Package – Enrolment and Application Data
 - (b) Paper titled Council on Federal Financial Relations – Update on Terms of Reference.
2. Considered the Paper titled Sharing Commonwealth Unemployment Data for Targeted State and Territory Support Measures.
3. Noted the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will lead further work by officials on the provision of this data.
4. Endorsed the:
 - (a) Council on Federal Financial Relations minute from 19 February 2021
 - (b) Skills National Cabinet Reform Committee minute from 26 February 2021.

Original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary

PROTECTED: CABINET

Advice to National Cabinet from NSW, Vic, Qld & Commonwealth CHOs on Next Step Measures

There has been significant further growth in cases, still with substantial numbers of returned travellers and small community outbreaks associated with travellers. Overall case numbers in Australia are very concerning, although comparison with many other countries, when they were at this level, suggests much better case ascertainment in Australia. Small clusters are evident in Sydney and there is growth in cases with no epidemiology link. Victoria has small numbers of cases with no epidemiology link, including some health care workers. Data from Victoria also show a delay between symptoms to diagnosis that is currently too long. Queensland has a significant caseload but no clear evidence of community transmission. Given the case load in major Eastern Seaboard cities is the most material, all three States are keen to take consistent measures and have consistent messages

All three states continue to be significantly impacted by returned travellers and all are supportive of very stringent new boarder measures.

Whilst there is some evidence of flattening of the epidemic curve and evidence of impact of recent social distancing measures (foot traffic, public transport utilisation), it is too early for a clear assessment of the long-term measures recently introduced. If only 70-80% of the population is included in, and compliant with, social distancing criteria, it is unlikely to succeed to control the outbreak, with compliance above 90% required to significantly flatten the epidemiological curve.

It is also likely that more stringent border measures will also take several days to take effect.

There is concern that any further action that may be required (particularly in Sydney) should be implemented early for best effect. There is a 10-12 day lag between introducing an intervention and seeing its effect on case numbers but in this time, if there is material community transmission, cases could continue to grow exponentially with potential impact on the health system.

A suppression strategy should continue to be supported to ensure the best health outcomes.

Accordingly some additional short-term measures are worthy of consideration in the three major affected Cities to buy some additional time to observe the trend of the epidemiology over the next week.

There does not seem to be a clear indication for additional measures in the remainder of the country at this stage, provided new highly effective border measures are urgently implemented.

A suppression strategy should continue to be supported to ensure the best health outcomes.

PROTECTED: CABINET

PROTECTED: CABINET

Additional Measures recommended:

1. In addition to the existing enforced quarantine arrangements for international travellers arriving in Australia, it is recommended that in high risk cases, monitored placement in a facility such as a hotel is enforced for those who would normally reside with others at home.
2. Given the epidemiology in Greater Sydney, Greater Melbourne and South East Queensland, it is proposed that these jurisdictions consider immediately instituting additional physical distancing measures through closure of some or all non-essential services for a short-term period, initially for two weeks, to enable assessment of the impact of earlier measures and new border measures.

Additional Consideration of Triggers

The officials were unable to agree on any set numerical triggers for further action given the need for a contextualised assessment of the outbreak in a given area. The previously proposed parameters include an assessment of the following:

- The overall epidemic curve, which demonstrates 'rate of growth' nationally or potentially regionally if a regional lock down is proposed. This needs to be interpreted in the local context.
- Clusters without clear epidemiology links are the strongest indication of outbreaks, which are unlikely to be contained by public health intervention.
- The degree of expected impact of current social distancing on transmission rates.
- Health system impact. An assessment that demand for general or specific health services (particularly critical care services) will likely exceed capacity within 2 to 3 weeks.
- Case positivity rate as an indicator of testing.
- Time to diagnosis and time to complete contact tracing as well as the number of contacts per case as an indicator of public health response capacity.

PROTECTED: CABINET



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday 09 April 2021

10AM to 12PM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | Prime Minister |
| 2. | Respect@Work: Sexual Harassment National Inquiry Report 2020 (Paper) | Prime Minister |
| 3. | COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response - Taskforce Report (Memorandum) | Mr Gaetjens |
| 4. | Coronavirus Update | |
| | (a) Epidemiological Update (Paper) | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| | (b) Vaccine Rollout (Paper) | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| | (c) Update on Papua New Guinea (Oral Update) | Prime Minister Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| 5. | Border Management Issues | |
| | (a) Caps on International Passenger Arrivals (Paper) | Prime Minister |
| 6. | Priorities for Data Sharing Between the Commonwealth, States and Territories (Paper) | Prime Minister |
| 7. | Reform Priorities Update | |
| | (a) National Cabinet Reform Deliverables for 2021 (Paper) | Prime Minister |
| 8. | Items for Endorsement / Correspondence for Noting | |

- (a) AHPPC Supporting Documentation
(Paper)
 - (b) AHPPC Statement on Managed Quarantine Continuous Improvement Framework
(Paper)
 - (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard
(Paper)
 - (d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions
(Paper)
 - (e) Economic Support Package Enrolment and Application Data
(Paper)
 - (f) Infrastructure and Transport National Cabinet Reform Committee Operating Protocols
(Paper)
 - (g) National Cabinet Reform Committee Minutes
(Paper)
9. Other Business



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0342/NATCAB
09 April 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| Other | SM21/0342 | RESPECT@WORK: SEXUAL HARASSMENT NATIONAL INQUIRY REPORT 2020 |
|--------------|------------------|---|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Respect@Work: Sexual Harassment National Inquiry Report 2020.
2. Re-affirmed the National Cabinet's commitment and collective efforts to address workplace sexual harassment, with zero tolerance for any form of sexual harassment.
3. Noted the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments are already working together under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22 ('National Plan') to respond to sexual violence and sexual harassment, and agreed this focus should continue in the development of the next National Plan.
4. Noted the Women's Safety Ministers met on Thursday 8 April 2021 and confirmed the National Summit on Women's Safety will be held at the end of July 2021.

5. Agreed to direct the Commonwealth, State and Territory ministers, through the following intergovernmental bodies, to address the relevant recommendations of the Respect@Work report:

- (a) the Women's Safety Taskforce to progress consideration of Respect@Work recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 54, 55, including through the development of the next National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
- (b) the Meeting of Attorneys-General to progress consideration of recommendations 16, 26, 39, 40 and 53, relating to broader law reform
- (c) Work Health and Safety Ministers to progress consideration of recommendations 35 and 49
- (d) Skills Ministers' Meeting to progress consideration of recommendations 11 and 12.

6. Agreed all States and Territories will provide responses to relevant Respect@Work report recommendations by the end of June 2021.

7. Agreed the Respect@Work Council would consider and come back to the National Cabinet by the end of 2021 on progress around improving the consistency of data collection by Respect@Work Council members, and ways to improve sharing of data relating to workplace sexual harassment enquiries, complaints, claims and settlement outcomes to contribute to more effective reporting on workplace sexual harassment.

8. Agreed the intergovernmental bodies listed in paragraph 5 above come back to the National Cabinet with an update on the implementation of the relevant recommendations ahead of its July 2021 meeting.

9. Agreed women's safety is a key priority and that, recognising the broader impacts of sexual violence, including issues of sexual harassment raised in the Respect@Work report, further consideration be given to:

- (a) coercive control
- (b) increased and consistent sentencing across jurisdictions for domestic and sexual violence
- (c) how criminal justice procedure and evidence rules can achieve increased rates of conviction and better cater to the needs of traumatised witnesses.

10. Agreed further consideration of issues raised in paragraph 9 above be progressed through the Women's Safety Taskforce and the Meeting of Attorneys-General.

11. Agreed the Commonwealth Secretaries of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Treasury lead a stocktake of all relevant measures focused on women's economic security across all jurisdictions to be considered by the National Cabinet at its July 2021 meeting.

12. Agreed all States and Territories will provide information on acquittal of COVID-19 domestic violence funds to the Commonwealth by Friday 16 April 2021.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0157/NATCAB
09 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0157 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Reopening Framework: Update from the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce.
2. Agreed:
 - (a) to the principles for COVID-19 management and reopening (Attachment 2 to the Paper refers)
 - (b) to the vaccination rollout proceeding as quickly as possible
 - (c) jurisdictions continue to improve quarantine management, COVID-19 testing, and contact tracing
 - (d) to adopt Australian Health and Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice of easing venue restrictions to be no stricter than the one person per two square metre rule
 - (e) to adopt the AHPPC advice that large, ticketed and seated gatherings can have 100 per cent capacity

- (f) jurisdictions prioritise local containment measures and aim for outbreak responses that keep internal borders open
 - (g) AHPPC be tasked to provide specific health advice regarding:
 - (i) the implications, for quarantine arrangements and re-opening Australia, of a successful vaccine rollout to the most vulnerable Australians (phases 1a and 1b of the vaccine rollout)
 - (ii) the medical thresholds that would allow for travel overseas, including potential reforms to hotel quarantine for vaccinated Australians, variations to hotel quarantine and the return of Australians from lower risk countries with vaccine certificates
 - (iii) the current evidence around the effect of Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved vaccines on transmissibility of COVID-19
 - h) the Commonwealth Department of Health and Department of Treasury will undertake further work on economic impacts associated with the recommendations and scope of the taskforce, which will be progressed through First Ministers' Secretaries.
3. Noted:
- (a) AHPPC advice that the easing of restrictions in paragraph 2 above can occur on the basis of:
 - (i) international borders remaining substantively closed
 - (ii) a reduction in risk of incursion through vaccination of quarantine staff, their close contacts and health care workers
 - (b) individual international border easing measures, for example, travel from New Zealand, are being implemented, while planning work is underway for full reopening when safe
 - (c) AHPPC advice that a communication strategy will be essential to help the community for living with COVID-19.
4. Noted the AHPPC supporting paper will not be publically released at this stage.
5. Noted the Chief Medical Officer's update on COVID-19 epidemiology.
6. Considered the National Cabinet Paper titled COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout.
7. Noted the update on progress of the aged care and disability vaccine rollout (Phase 1a) and delivery of the vaccine by primary care providers (Phase 1b).

8. Noted:
- (a) at 29 March 2021, Australia had taken delivery of 872,820 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 2,043,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, including over 1.3 million locally manufactured doses. This brings the total doses received to over 2.9 million
 - (b) approximately 1.9 million doses have been distributed nationally with 1.3 million doses available for administration
 - (c) as at 7 April 2021, more than 996,000 doses have been administered, including over 360,000 from over 3,300 Phase 1b primary care sites, and over 50% of Residential Aged Care Facility residents have received first doses.
9. Agreed to jurisdictions sharing data on quarantine workforce vaccination status with the Commonwealth, with data not to be made publicly available.
10. Agreed to work collaboratively to increase public visibility of vaccine rollout program data, including dose allocation, distribution and administration (Attachment A1 to the Paper titled COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout is an example of what is proposed to be published on the Department of Health website each week).
11. Agreed the Secretary of the Department of Health will work with the TGA and Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) to ensure full alignment of public messaging, noting ATAGI is the relevant authority in this area.
12. Agreed the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') will prepare potential nationally-consistent guidelines for priority pre-departure vaccinations for some cohorts (such as business and compassionate) that could be implemented by State and Territory Chief Health Ministers. This work is to be progressed through First Ministers' Secretaries.
13. Noted the:
- (a) Commonwealth continues to work closely with suppliers to provide certainty on future supply to jurisdictions as far in advance as possible
 - (b) need to draw on contingency doses as a result of the variability in initial supply volumes of the domestically produced AstraZeneca vaccine
 - (c) recent developments about the association between administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine and a rare specific clotting disorder
 - (d) ATAGI's subsequent clinical advice (Attachment A3 to the Paper titled COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout refers) published on 8 April 2021 and that

the overall rollout strategy remains unchanged, but must be recalibrated for people aged under 50 years

- (e) the Commonwealth will urgently discuss possible recalibration activities with jurisdictions in line with the ATAGI's preliminary clinical advice
- (f) the Commonwealth is seeking to bring forward the delivery schedule for purchased vaccines and exploring the procurement of additional vaccines
- (g) update on the new Vaccine Schedule ('the Schedule') under the National Partnership for COVID-19 Response:
 - (i) as at 8 April 2021, five jurisdictions (Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania) have signed the Schedule
 - (ii) the Northern Territory received their Upfront Payment on 8 March 2021
 - (iii) Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmania received their Upfront Payment on 7 April 2021
 - (iv) South Australia will receive their Upfront Payment once their jurisdictional implementation plan is signed, which is a condition of payment under the Schedule.

14. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister, the Chief Medical Officer and the Secretary of the Department of Health on Papua New Guinea.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0341/NATCAB
09 April 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0341 | BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals.
2. Noted:
 - (a) returning Australians continue to be prioritised with international air passenger arrival caps
 - (b) the following caps arrangements currently in effect:
 - (i) New South Wales – 430 per day (3,010 per week)
 - (ii) Western Australia – 1,025 per week
 - (iii) South Australia – 530 per week

- (c) the following caps arrangements for Queensland:
 - (i) a temporary reduction on previous levels to 500 per week (with a corresponding reduction to 150 per week surge capacity), including 25 per cent reduction in passenger numbers from Papua New Guinea from 11:59pm on 30 March 2021 to 11:59pm on 13 April 2021
 - (d) the request to extend the caps arrangements for Queensland for a further two weeks from 12:01am on 14 April 2021, with the aim of restoring to 1,000 per week and 300 per week surge capacity as soon as possible
 - (e) the following caps arrangements for Victoria:
 - (i) for the week commencing 8 April 2021, a cap of 800 arrivals, with an intention to increase to 1,000 per week as soon as possible.
- 3. Agreed to extend the caps arrangements in paragraph 2 above until 17 June 2021, aligning with the human biosecurity emergency period under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, with further consideration of the management of caps following this date at the National Cabinet meeting in May 2021.
- 4. Noted the data included in the paper on:
 - (a) utilisation rates (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers)
 - (b) composition of international arrivals (Attachments A2 and A3 to the Paper refer)
 - (c) arrival trends (Attachment A4 to the Paper refers).

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0331/NATCAB
09 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| Other | SM21/0331 | PRIORITIES FOR DATA SHARING BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH, STATES AND TERRITORIES |
|--------------|------------------|---|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Further Priorities for Data Sharing Between the Commonwealth, States and Territories.
2. Agreed to share data across jurisdictions as a default position, where it can be done securely, safely and legally.
3. Agreed Data and Digital Ministers to comeback to the National Cabinet in June 2021 with an intergovernmental agreement to give effect to the National Cabinet's commitment to data sharing.
4. Agreed Data and Digital Ministers will lead work, consulting other Portfolio Ministers to identify areas of focus and develop a comprehensive work program for national data sharing, including the removal of statutory and other obstacles to data collection and sharing.

5. Noted Data and Digital Ministers have been facilitating data sharing between the Commonwealth, States and Territories in response to COVID-19, and in support of the economic recovery.

6. Agreed relevant Portfolio Ministers, with support from Data and Digital Ministers, will continue to accelerate data sharing requests as these arise.

original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0340/NATCAB
09 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0340 | REFORM PRIORITIES UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled National Cabinet Reform Deliverables for 2021.
2. Noted the progress in delivering the National Cabinet's reform priorities, including:

s 47B(a)

- (b) the Energy Committee has delivered its first major priority, interim reliability and security measures in the electricity market, in advance of further planned reforms to the market, including recommending a market design for the National Electricity Market post 2025
- (c) the Rural and Regional Committee has reported to the National Cabinet on the quantum, status and impact of existing investments by the Commonwealth Government in rural and regional communities and is currently working on a series of measures intended to improve delivery of existing investments to support Australia's COVID-19 economic recovery through strong and sustainable rural and regional communities
- (d) the Infrastructure and Transport Committee is developing proposals to streamline planning and approval processes

- (e) Infrastructure Australia's threshold for business cases has been increased from \$100 million to \$250 million, to better focus the evaluation process on the key projects that will help rebuild our economy and support jobs into the future
 - (f) the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) is working to implement a national framework for the automatic mutual recognition of occupational licenses by 1 July 2021, subject to the passage of legislation
 - (g) CFFR is working to finalise the review of the Federation Funding Agreements framework by July 2021
 - (h) CFFR is progressing a raft of other reform priorities which are largely centred around facilitating conditions for economic growth and job creation
 - (i) when it first meets, the Health Committee will agree high level principles for the new National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.
3. Agreed the timeframes for delivery of the National Cabinet Reform Committees' and CFFR's major reform priorities in 2021 (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers).
4. Noted CFFR will progress the National Cabinet priorities including the National Skills Agreement, the National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and deregulation, and report back to the National Cabinet in the agreed timeframes (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers).
5. Noted the National Cabinet will continue to be solely comprised of the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers, with the Australian Local Government Association participating in the National Federation Reform Council, which provides local governments with an opportunity to highlight the potential impact of issues of national significance on local governments and communities.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0163/NATCAB
09 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| Other | SM21/0163 | ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT/CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING |
|--------------|------------------|--|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Supporting Documentation
 - (b) AHPPC statement on continuous learning in managed quarantine for international arrivals
 - (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard
 - (d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions
 - (e) Economic Support Package – Enrolment and Application Data
 - (f) Infrastructure and Transport Reform Committee – Operating Protocols.

2. Endorsed the:
 - (a) Council on Federal Financial Relations minute from 19 March 2021
 - (b) Infrastructure and Transport National Cabinet Reform Committee minute from 25 March 2021.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Monday 19 April 2021

2PM to 3PM

Sydney Commonwealth Parliament Offices via Telepresence (NSW)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | |
| 2. | Vaccine Rollout | |
| (a) | Medical Advice on COVID-19 Vaccines (<i>Paper</i>) | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly Professor Cheng |
| (b) | Domestic and International Vaccine Supply (<i>Paper</i>) | Professor Murphy Ms Edwards |
| (c) | Vaccine Rollout Phases Implementation (<i>Presentation</i>) | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly Ms Edwards Dr Khorshid Commodore Young |
| 3. | Items for Endorsement / Correspondence for Noting | |
| 4. | Other Business | |



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0365/NATCAB
19 April 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0365 | VACCINE ROLLOUT |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Medical Advice on COVID-19 Vaccines.
2. Noted the information provided in Attachment A1 to the Paper which describes:
 - (a) the advice received by the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)
 - (b) the review of advice and investigations undertaken within Australia with regards to the cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) associated with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
 - (c) the diagnostic process for determining TTS
 - (d) the international situation with regards to AstraZeneca and TTS which includes a summary of cases of TTS in the United States of America associated with the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
3. Noted ATAGI will:
 - (a) continue to monitor the latest evidence regarding TTS, including for potential identification of risk factors and treatment options
 - (b) update the National Cabinet promptly on any significant developments.

4. Considered the Paper titled Domestic and International Vaccine Supply.
5. Noted the update on the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccine supply and manufacture strategy, and Australia's good position in comparison to countries of interest.
6. Considered the Paper titled Vaccine Rollout Phases Implementation.
7. Agreed to further consider the design of a recalibrated delivery model at the next meeting of the National Cabinet.
8. Agreed in principle the recommendations outlined in the Paper with the following changes:
 - (a) recommendation 7 amended to:
 - (i) bring forward a timetable for the commencement of access to the AstraZeneca vaccine for people aged 50 to 69 years old (and in Phase 2a), while continuing to prioritise access for people eligible in Phases 1a and 1b and with reasonable advance notice so providers can prepare
 - (b) recommendation 8(a) amended to:
 - (i) reflect readiness for more State and Territory-operated Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccination sites, including mass vaccination sites where it makes sense to do so, from mid-2021 or earlier
 - (c) addition of a new recommendation 9:
 - (i) to consider changes to the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response to allow for cost sharing arrangements for any genuine net additional costs associated with the recalibrated rollout.
9. Noted the Presentation provided in Attachment A1 to the Paper.
10. Noted if the uptake of AstraZeneca continues to decline in people 50 years old and over, and the COVID-19 Vaccination Program becomes heavily reliant on the Pfizer vaccine, the limited number of additional Pfizer doses due in the country between 19 April 2021 and 30 June 2021 (less than 2 million Pfizer vaccines), are not sufficient to offer first doses to all remaining Phase 1a and 1b eligible people (approximately 5 million) defined by the national roll-out strategy.

11. Agreed to vaccinate groups of athletes and officials participating in the Tokyo Olympic Games and other Australians undertaking essential overseas travel under existing arrangements for official travel under priority group 1b, with First Secretaries to comeback with implementation details at a subsequent meeting of National Cabinet.

12. The National Cabinet will next meet on 22 April 2021.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Thursday 22 April 2021

2 PM to 2.30 PM

Sydney Commonwealth Parliament Offices via Telepresence (NSW)

NO

RESPONSIBLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Strategic Discussion | Prime Minister |
| 2. Vaccine Rollout Phases Implementation (<i>Paper</i>) | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly Ms Edwards Commodore Young |
| 3. Items for Noting / Correspondence for Endorsement | |
| (a) AHPPC Advice – Face Masks (<i>Paper</i>) | |
| 4. Other Business | |



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0415/NATCAB
22 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0415 | STRATEGIC DISCUSSION |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the significant increase in identified COVID-19 positive cases in Australians returning from India, which is experiencing a wave of COVID infections and is to be designated a high COVID-19 risk country.
2. Agreed the:
 - (a) Chief Medical Officer will make an assessment to determine other high COVID-19 risk countries, which may be informed by reviewing other countries' processes for determining COVID-19 risk, including the United Kingdom 'red list' and report back to the National Cabinet at its next meeting
 - (b) Chief Medical Officer will work with the Australian Border Force to implement immediately a reduction in exemptions for travel to countries deemed to be a high COVID-19 risk, with outbound travel to high risk countries to be restricted for urgent and essential reasons only
 - (c) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) will provide advice to the National Cabinet on a consistent COVID-19 positive case threshold over which exceedance will inform decisions to reduce passenger arrivals from a high COVID-19 risk international jurisdiction.
3. Agreed, following India's designation as a high COVID-19 risk country, to:
 - (a) reduce the number of passengers on Government Facilitated Flights into Howard Springs for all flights departing India, until the rate of positive cases has decreased to acceptable levels

- (b) an approximate 30 per cent reduction in passenger numbers for Australians returning from India on Government Facilitated Flights, commencing immediately and any other direct flights from India into Australia as soon as practicable
 - (c) Commonwealth Government (the 'Commonwealth') officials will implement arrangements that require travellers that have been in India in the last 14 days to have a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within 72 hours prior to entering Australia from the last port of embarkation, with Commonwealth officials working to implement this approach and apply it to other identified high-risk countries as soon as practicable and will report back to the next meeting of National Cabinet on its implementation.
4. Noted it is not viable in the current climate to seek to reduce the timeframe for PCR testing in India on direct commercial flights from 72 hours to 48 hours.
5. Noted four of the scheduled Government Facilitated Flights from India into Howard Springs will be re-scheduled to June 2021.
6. Agreed:
- (a) other jurisdictions will provide assistance, should it be required, for any medivac flights out of Howard Springs for Australians who require critical care to assist the Northern Territory health care system
 - (b) to provide communications to Australians currently in India, through Qantas for Government Facilitated Flights and Smartraveller and Industry representatives, for commercial flights, to recommend they self-isolate prior to departure to assist with limiting the risk of transmission prior to departure
 - (c) to seek Rapid Antigen Testing for Australians returning from India on direct flights (i.e. Qantas and Air India) and other commercial flights where practicable, noting there would be a cost to the Commonwealth.
7. Considered the statement by the AHPPC on mask wearing during domestic air travel and noted:
- (a) aircraft and airports continue to pose a risk for COVID-19 transmission

- (b) provisions for exemptions to mandatory mask wearing on aircraft and in airports can be made by the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Health Officers as deemed appropriate.
8. Agreed the National Cabinet will next meet on 30 April 2021.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0410/NATCAB
22 April 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| Other | SM21/0410 | VACCINE ROLLOUT PHASES IMPLEMENTATION |
|--------------|------------------|--|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Vaccine Rollout Phases Implementation, and the accompanying presentations from the Department of Health (Attachments A1 and A2 to the Paper refer).
2. Noted the expected supply of AstraZeneca and Pfizer doses over 2021 and the imperative to work together to administer these doses to Australians as quickly as possible after they are received.
3. Noted there are insufficient doses of the Pfizer vaccine alone to vaccinate and protect all remaining people from phases 1a and 1b before or during winter 2021, bearing in mind the second dose contingency supply held by the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth) and the amount of doses in the distribution pipeline at any given time.
4. Agreed to pursue best efforts to maximise uptake of the AstraZeneca vaccine among eligible people aged 50 years old and over by 30 June 2021.

5. Agreed to recalibrate the delivery model for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by:

- (a) limiting access to the Pfizer vaccine to:
 - (i) people aged under 50 years old who are eligible in phases 1a and 1b (pending commencement of subsequent phases)
 - (ii) Residential Aged Care Facility residents (through completion of the Commonwealth's existing in-reach program)
 - (iii) disability care residents with complex needs who require in-reach vaccination services
 - (iv) people in remote and very remote communities where it makes sense to use a single vaccine for all or most of the community
 - (v) in very limited circumstances, quarantine, border and frontline health care workers not already vaccinated where the relevant state or territory determines the worker should be fully vaccinated and protected as soon as possible
- (b) discouraging people aged 50 years old and over from waiting for the Pfizer vaccine by only providing them access to the Pfizer vaccine at the commencement of phase 2b, likely in late Q3 2021 or early Q4 2021 when larger volumes of the Pfizer vaccine are expected to be available
- (c) better utilising the available stock of AstraZeneca doses by bringing forward access to the AstraZeneca vaccine for phase 2a eligible people aged 50 to 69 years old and to bring forward access earlier where demand exists and supply permits (without displacing phase 1a and 1b eligible people) with commencement nationally on:
 - (i) 3 May 2021 for state and territory sites and General Practice-Led Respiratory Clinics (GPRC)
 - (ii) 17 May 2021 (or earlier if there was a demonstrated capacity to do so following an approved application to the Federal Department of Health) for General Practitioners (GP)

- (d) increasing access to the Pfizer vaccine by:
 - (i) immediately opening state and territory-operated sites to people listed in paragraph 5(a) (i) to (ii) above and disability care residents that do not require in-reach vaccination services
 - (ii) a Pfizer mass vaccination plan, which includes state and territory mass vaccination sites and large GP and GPRC sites, and to establish readiness to operationalise where demand exists and supply permits
- (e) maintaining the lead role for GPs in administering the AstraZeneca vaccine as demand exists and supply permits, allocating more doses to GPs (including by re-allocating or re-directing doses allocated to states and territories, where it makes sense to do so)
- (f) supplementing the role of GPs with states and territories continuing to operate AstraZeneca sites and services where required to supplement the primary care network and immediately opening these sites to people aged 50 years old and over and eligible in phases 1a and 1b
- (g) making better use of some vaccination sites in permitting state and territory-operated vaccination sites (and other sites if clinically safe) to operate Pfizer and AstraZeneca services from one site, provided the site is large enough to allow for complete clinical separation of the two services
- (h) agreeing states and territories can choose to incorporate community pharmacies (which were originally due to commence from Phase 2a) into their roll-out plans in rural and remote areas, where there are no or limited other points of presence, but that the National Cabinet agreement on the broader role of community pharmacies in the national rollout be deferred until supply increases and stabilises.

6. Agreed the revised COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy (Attachment A2 to the Paper refers), which, in light of the age-based preferential Pfizer vaccine recommendation, adjusts the age cut-off for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people eligible in phase 1b to 50 years old and over (down from 55 years and over) and expands eligibility in phase 2b to 16 and 17 year olds (now that Pfizer is the preferred vaccine for this age group and is approved for use in 16 and 17 year olds).

7. Agreed to the Commonwealth contributing 50 per cent of genuine net additional costs incurred by states and territories to set up additional COVID-19 clinics where necessary to support the recalibrated delivery model, with:

- (a) additional vaccination clinics able to include mass vaccination clinics, mobile clinics, temporary clinics, and repurposing of existing clinics
- (b) set up funding to be provided for any clinics established on or after 21 April 2021
- (c) schedule C of the National Partnership of the COVID-19 Response to be amended to include a Vaccination Roll-out Support Payment for this purpose
- (d) final arrangements to be settled by the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

8. Agreed the additional funding contribution will be in addition to the already offered 50 per cent contribution to the price per vaccination dose delivered under Schedule C of the Partnership, with:

- (a) in-scope activities for the Vaccination Roll-out Support Payment to be limited to establishment costs such as costs for leasing and fit-out of facilities, and equipment such as freezers, including costs of transporting necessary equipment
- (b) operational funding such as workforce related costs, workforce and patient transport, consumables and IT to be out of scope, as these costs are already recognised through the price per vaccination dose delivered
- (c) any other additional costs essential under the Vaccination Roll-out Support Payment to be agreed by the National Cabinet or between the Prime Minister and the relevant First Minister in writing prior to the cost being incurred.

9. Agreed to continue working together to closely align key public messaging to remind people of the risks of COVID-19, the safety and efficacy of both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines, the imperative for people to get vaccinated and to the immediate headline messages (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers).

10. Agreed to the implementation of the recalibrated delivery model through addendums to the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Implementation Plans, with Health Ministers to finalise and sign the addendums for noting by the National Cabinet at a future meeting.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Friday 30 April 2021

Time 10 AM to 11AM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | |
| 2. | COVID-19 High Risk Countries (<i>Paper</i>) | Prime Minister Professor Kelly Professor Murphy |
| 3. | Coronavirus Update | |
| (a) | Epidemiological Update (<i>Paper</i>) | Professor Kelly Professor Murphy |
| (b) | Vaccine Rollout Implementation Progress Report (<i>Paper</i>) | Professor Kelly Professor Murphy Commodore Young |
| 4. | Other Business | |



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0436/NATCAB
30 April 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| Other | SM21/0436 | COVID-19 HIGH RISK COUNTRIES |
|--------------|------------------|---|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the Paper titled COVID-19 High Risk Countries.
2. Noted:
 - (a) the methodology for identifying COVID-19 moderate and high risk countries of origin based on Common Operating Picture data of overseas acquired cases, to be implemented by the Chief Medical Officer and to inform decision-making on international arrivals
 - (b) flights from India to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates have been paused or restricted by actions of those countries or their airlines, significantly reducing the risk of passengers entering Australia via these third country transit hubs, which is being closely monitored by the Australian Commonwealth Government
 - (c) Qatar Airways advised Australian Commonwealth Government officials on 28 April 2021 it will no longer allow uplift of passengers from India to Australia until further notice

- (d) on 27 April 2021, the Prime Minister announced:
 - (i) a temporary pause on direct commercial and passenger repatriation flights from India until 15 May 2021
 - (ii) a requirement that once direct flights recommence, travellers from India produce a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction and a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) result prior to the flight
 - (e) QANTAS will institute RAT when direct government facilitated flights recommence from India to reduce the COVID-19 positivity rate at that time, however foreign airlines or other countries are unlikely to agree to such an approach
 - (f) measures to prioritise citizen returns over permanent residents would be:
 - (i) largely unnecessary in light of other measures to limit arrivals from high risk-countries
 - (ii) inconsistent with the National Cabinet messaging on supporting returning Australians
 - (iii) difficult to implement and risk legal challenge.
 - (g) the update on outbound travel exemptions to high risk-countries
 - (h) to continue to strengthen the response to public health and safety concerns regarding the increase in positive rates in hotel quarantine, the Commonwealth Government is considering further options to restrict passenger arrivals for individuals that have been in India within the preceding 14 days who are transiting via third countries
 - (i) the Commonwealth Government has commenced the procurement of at least 100 oxygen concentrators, along with tanks and consumables identified by the Indian Government as high need.
3. Noted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Home Affairs will provide advice to First Secretaries regarding additional ways that co-ordinated support can be provided to India, such as a national appeal or through other practical assistance.

original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0432/NATCAB
30 April 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0432 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, and the Honourable Peter Gutwein MP, Premier of Tasmania were apologies for the National Cabinet meeting of 30 April 2021.
2. Noted the Epidemiological Update 19 April 2021 to 25 April 2021 prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
3. Noted the Paper titled Vaccine Rollout Implementation Progress Report.
4. Noted the work underway to implement the recalibrated delivery model.
5. Noted an update will provided to all jurisdictions on the Commonwealth Government's communications campaign to commence 3 May 2021.
6. The National Cabinet will next meet on 7 May 2021.

original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

NATIONAL CABINET

AGENDA

Friday 07 May 2021

10AM to 11:30AM

Canberra - Parliament House Briefing Room via Telepresence (ACT)

| NO | | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Strategic Discussion | Prime Minister |
| 2. | Coronavirus Update | |
| | (a) Epidemiological Update <i>(Paper)</i> | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| | (b) Vaccine Rollout <i>(Paper)</i> | Professor Murphy Professor Kelly |
| | (c) Vaccinations for Essential Overseas Travel <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister |
| 3. | Border Management Issues | |
| | (a) Caps on International Passenger Arrivals <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister |
| | (b) Update on High Risk Countries <i>(Paper)</i> | Prime Minister |
| 4. | Items for Endorsement / Correspondence for Noting | |
| | (a) AHPPC Supporting Documentation <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| | (b) Economic Support Package Enrolment and Application Data <i>(Paper)</i> | |
| | (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard <i>(Paper)</i> | |

- (d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions
(Paper)
 - (e) National Cabinet Reform Committee Minutes
(Paper)
5. Other Business



**Australian, State and Territory
Governments**

**SM21/0456/NATCAB
07 May 2021**

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0456 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATE |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the Epidemiological Update prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
2. Considered the Paper titled Vaccine Rollout.
3. Noted the Presentation prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Health (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers).
4. Noted the update on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program and work underway to implement the recalibrated delivery model.
5. Considered the Paper titled Vaccinations for Essential Overseas Travel.
6. Agreed:
 - (a) a subset of Australian citizens and permanent residents aged under 50 years old with travel exemptions should be prioritised under Phase 1b to ensure they can access COVID-19 vaccines as early as practicable
 - (b) this subset includes people travelling for the following reasons:
 - (i) response to the COVID-19 Outbreak
 - (ii) critical industries and business
 - (iii) urgent medical treatment

- (iv) compassionate and compelling grounds
 - (v) urgent and unavoidable personal business
 - (vi) national interest
- (c) people who have received a travel exemption under the only remaining category, which is ‘travelling overseas for a compelling reason for at least 3 months’ will not be prioritised for vaccination, as this reason is not considered essential travel
- (d) the process to vaccinate Australian permanent residents and citizens under 50 years undertaking essential travel, including that eligible people will be offered the Pfizer vaccine through Commonwealth Government Vaccination Clinics and State and Territory run vaccination clinics.
7. Noted the Commonwealth Government will consider tightening outbound international border exemption eligibility and provide additional advice to the next meeting of National Cabinet regarding the arrangements.
8. Noted:
- (a) vaccinations for Olympic and Paralympic athletes and officials are already underway, to meet timeframes for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - (b) Olympic and Paralympic athletes and officials are able to travel under the ‘national interest’ travel exemption category (paragraph 6(b)(vi) above refers).
9. Agreed Health Ministers, supported by the Commonwealth Department of Health, consider the recent upward trends in Emergency Department presentations, in particular mental health related presentations and the drivers of these increases, and provide advice to the next meeting of the National Cabinet.
10. Agreed to invite representatives of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors to the next meeting of the National Cabinet to discuss issues associated with the post COVID-19 recovery.
11. Noted the next meeting of the National Cabinet is scheduled for 4 June 2021.

original authorised by

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0457/NATCAB
07 May 2021

CABINET MINUTE

NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other | SM21/0457 | BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|

The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Paper titled Caps on International Passenger Arrivals.
2. Noted returning Australians continue to be prioritised within international air passenger arrivals caps.
3. Noted the following caps arrangements currently in effect:
 - (a) New South Wales – 430 per day (3,010 per week)
 - (b) Queensland – 1,000 per week with a 300 per week surge capacity
 - (c) South Australia – 530 per week
 - (d) Victoria – a cap of 880 arrivals per week with a 120 per week surge capacity, with an intention to convert surge capacity to a cap of 1,000 per week as soon as possible
 - (e) Western Australia - a temporary reduction on previous levels to 512 per week from 12.01am Thursday 29 April until 11.59pm Sunday 30 May 2021, and then restoring to previous levels of 1,025 per week.
4. Agreed future cap arrangements will be agreed on a bilateral basis between the Commonwealth and each State and Territory.
5. Noted:
 - (a) previous and ongoing surge efforts above caps have been critical to the repatriation effort

- (b) agreement to existing cap arrangements does not preclude future efforts above caps, particularly in response to the Commonwealth declaring a country or countries as high-risk (currently India only), for vulnerable Australians and/or emergency circumstances.
6. Noted the data included on:
 - (a) utilisation rates (Attachment A1 to the Paper refers)
 - (b) composition of international arrivals (Attachment A2 to the Paper refers)
 - (c) arrival trends (Attachment A5 to the Paper refers).
 7. Considered the Paper titled Update on High-Risk Countries.
 8. Noted the pause on flights from high-risk countries is scheduled to be lifted on 15 May 2021 with the accompanying determination made under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* automatically expiring on this day.
 9. Noted decisions to limit international passenger arrivals originating from high-risk countries will continue to be based on health advice from the Chief Medical Officer.
 10. Noted the Commonwealth will recommence additional facilitated flights from India, once the temporary pause ends, to help get Australians home, including:
 - (a) the Northern Territory resuming repatriation flights from India, with continuous monitoring to ensure positive case numbers are within the capacity of the quarantine and health system
 - (b) direct flights will have enhanced pre-departure testing requirements and be subject to a Jurisdiction's Common Operating Picture.
 11. Noted:
 - (a) the Commonwealth has written to all states and territories seeking support for additional facilitated flights for returning Australians from India
 - (b) New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, will accept additional facilitated flights for returning Australians from India
 - (c) other jurisdictions will consider how they may be able to assist and respond in due course.

12. Agreed all jurisdictions will continue to support medivac of any returned traveller in Howard Springs Quarantine Facility requiring hospitalisation, regardless of their state of residence.

13. Agreed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will conduct a review of Australians registered with DFAT to return to Australia from India to assist with prioritising individuals and their families for return through facilitated flights.

14. Noted the Commonwealth will continue to assist States and Territories with arrangements to transfer medical equipment and supplies to India.

original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory
Governments

SM21/0458/NATCAB
07 May 2021

CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| Other | SM21/0458 | NATIONAL CABINET ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING |
|--------------|------------------|---|

The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
 - (a) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Supporting Documentation
 - (b) Economic Support Package Enrolment and Application Data
 - (c) Social Policy and Mental Health Dashboard – 5 May 2021
 - (d) Data on Domestic Border Exemptions.
2. Endorsed the:
 - (a) Council on Federal Financial Relations minute from 16 April 2021
 - (b) Health National Cabinet Reform Committee minute from 29 April 2021.

original authorised by
Cabinet Secretary