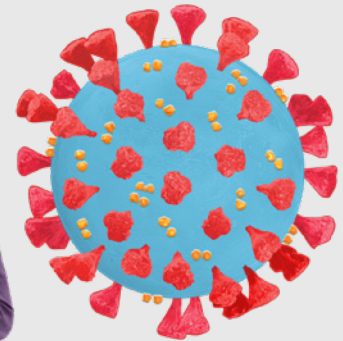




How the Australian Government did in the COVID-19 pandemic

Part 2



Easy Read

About this information



Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet

The **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** made this information.



The **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** supports the Prime Minister to do their work.



There was an **inquiry** into how the Australian Government did in the COVID-19 **pandemic**.



An **inquiry** is when the Government looks into an issue.



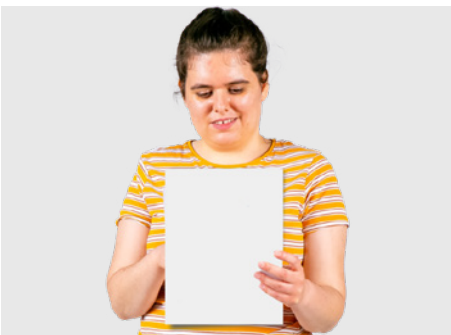
A **pandemic** is when people around the world get sick at the same time.



The Government asked some **experts** to do the inquiry.



Experts are people who know a lot about a topic.



This information tells you what we found out in the inquiry.



You can ask for support to read this information.

9 big things the Government should do



There are 9 big things that are important to be ready for a pandemic.

They are

1. Do things so more people stay safe



2. Plan and get ready



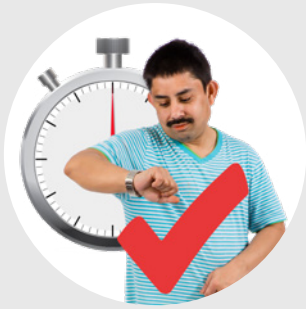
3. Have leaders that work together



4. Use **evidence** to make decisions.



Evidence is when we find proof about something.



5. Be ready to do things quickly



6. Have good relationships



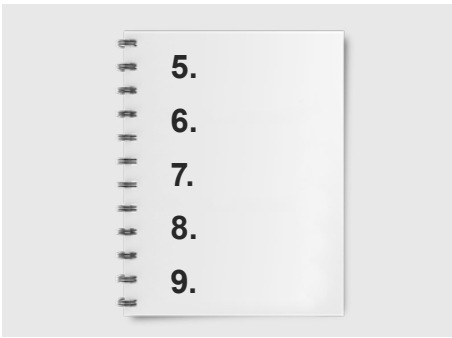
7. Have trust with the community



8. Be fair for all groups of people



9. Say things in a clear way.



This Easy Read information is about the big things from numbers 5 to 9.

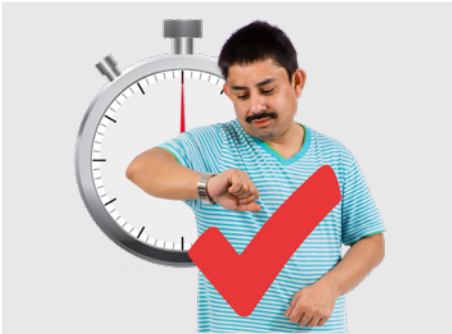


We call this information **Part 2**.



Part 1 has Easy Read information about the big things from numbers 1 to 4.

5. Be ready to do things quickly



The Government needs to do things quickly in a pandemic.



In COVID-19 we made a group called **National Cabinet** that met to fix problems.



The **National Cabinet** was a group of Government leaders who made decisions about COVID-19.



Some things were hard for the Government to do quickly because there were no plans.



The Government was quick to give money to lots of services that needed it.



But other Government rules meant it took a long time for some services to get the money.



The Government was quick to find out more information about COVID-19.



But the Government was slow to make changes for other problems.



A big problem was there were not enough workers in health care.

What we learned



We must have good plans so we can do things quickly in a pandemic.



The Government must have ways to find out what is working and not working.

6. Have good relationships



The Government needs good relationships with people and services in a pandemic.



In COVID-19 the Government worked well with

- First Nations leaders
- Areas that had gone through another type of emergency.

The Government did not always have strong relationships with



- Businesses



- Community services



- Universities



- Unions.



Unions are groups of workers who speak up for their rights at work.



Sometimes the Government only talked to people they already had relationships with.



Sometimes this was not enough to help make the big decisions.

What we learned



The Government should make strong relationships with people and services.



It will help us to deal with a pandemic if we listen to people and services.



But sometimes relationships are not enough to make decisions.



It is important the Government also has a plan to do things quickly in a pandemic.

7. Have trust with the community



The community needs to trust the Government in a pandemic.



At the start of the pandemic the community trusted the Government a lot.



But the community did not trust the Government as much as the pandemic kept going.

People did not trust the Government because



- The Government did not say things in a way they could understand



- The Government did not say why it made some decisions



- The rules were very hard and went for a long time



- States and Territories had different rules.



One reason people did not trust the Government was the COVID-19 **vaccine mandates**.



Vaccines are medicines that can stop you and others from getting sick.



Mandates said you had to have the COVID-19 vaccine to work in a job.



Now some people do not want to get vaccines.

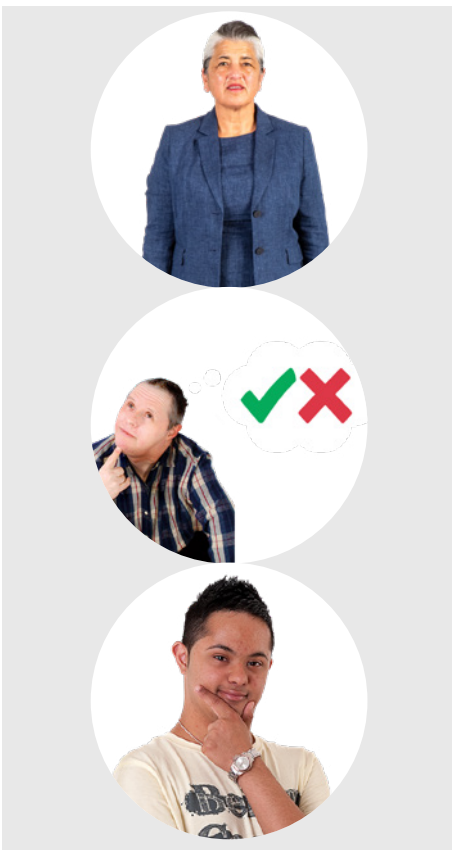
What we learned



We need to get the trust of the community back before the next pandemic.



If the Government does not do this the community might not follow the rules.



To get trust back we need to do things like

- Say our decisions in a clear way
- Say why we made our decisions
- Ask people what they think.

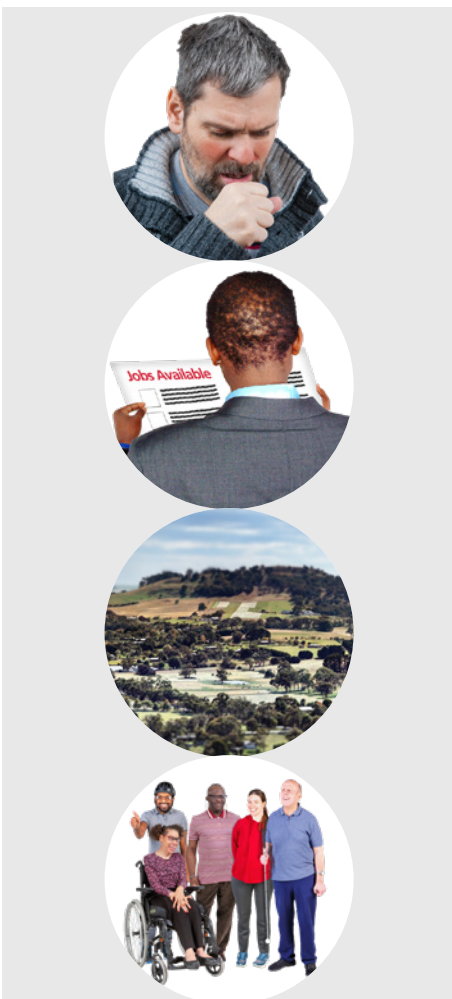
8. Be fair to all groups of people



The Government needs to be fair to all groups of people in a pandemic.



For some groups of people a pandemic can be harder.



These might be people

- With health issues
- Who do not have jobs
- Who live in places far away from the city
- People with disability.



The Government needs to think of these people first.



The Government did a good job of supporting First Nations people in COVID-19.



But the Government did not do a good job of supporting people from other **cultures**.



Culture means the way you do things because of where you or your family are from.



In COVID-19 people from different cultures died more often than people born in Australia.



Lots of young people from other countries could not get Government support.

What we learned



The Government must make sure everyone is looked after in a pandemic.



We need good ways to get information about the issues for different groups.



This will help us keep those groups safe in a pandemic.



We need to work with the groups to find ways that work best for them.

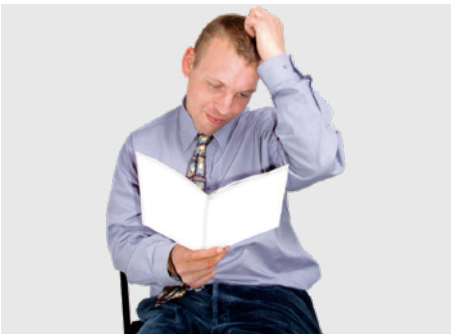
9. Say things in a clear way



The Government needs to say things in a clear way in a pandemic.



In COVID-19 some Governments gave different information than others.



This made people not trust the information from Government.



Sometimes there was too much information.



Information about the COVID-19 vaccines was confusing for lots of people.



The Government did not always give information the right way for different people.



It was also hard for people to know what information was true or not.

What we learned



Our Government needs a plan for how to say things clearly in a pandemic.



All the Governments need to agree to the plan.



The Government needs to give information to different groups in the way they need.

Australian Centre for Disease Control



We think the Government should make an **Australian Centre for Disease Control**.

We will say **CDC** for short.



The CDC will support Australia to get ready for the next pandemic.



It will help the Government to make decisions in a pandemic.



The CDC will also support Australians to understand health information.



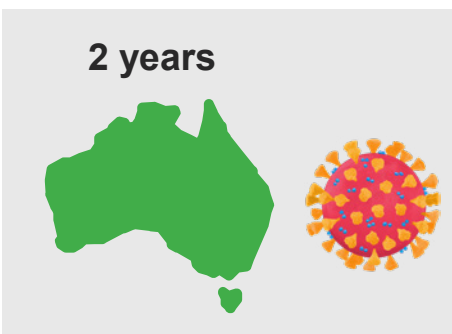
The CDC will keep the information for the big health issues in Australia.



The CDC can look out for any things that might become a pandemic.



The CDC should make and test the plans for what to do in a pandemic.



The CDC should check how ready Australia is for a pandemic every 2 years.



The CDC can support the Government to speak to the public in a pandemic.



The CDC should work together with **researchers**.



Researchers are people who look into issues to find things out.



The CDC should be checked by 31 December 2026 to see if it is doing its job.

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read. **CID** for short. You need to ask CID if you want to use any pictures in this document. You can contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.