



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Things we need to do to get ready for the next pandemic



Easy Read

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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.



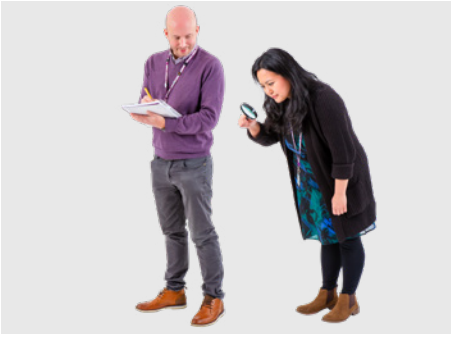
There was an **inquiry** into how the Australian Government did in the COVID-19 **pandemic**.



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



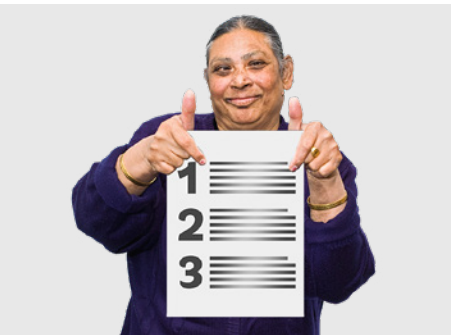
A **pandemic** is when people around the world get sick at the same time.



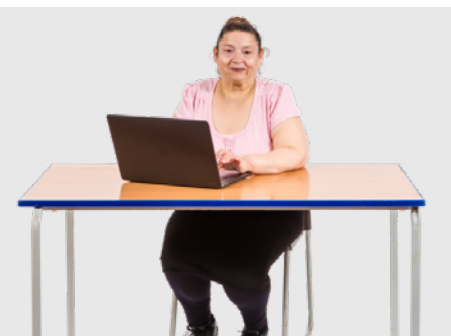
The Government asked some **experts** to do the inquiry.



Experts are people who know a lot about a topic.



This information says the things the Government should do to get ready for the next pandemic.



You can ask for support to read this information.

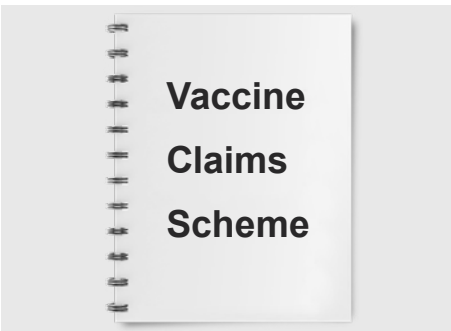
1. Do things so more people stay safe



We need to make sure people get health care they missed in COVID-19.



We need to give money to services to support mental health for children and young people.



We need to check the **Vaccine Claims Scheme** in case we need to use it for other health issues.



The **Vaccine Claims Scheme** gave money to people who got hurt from the COVID-19 vaccine.



A **vaccine** is a medicine that may stop you and others from getting sick



We need to finish looking at how we dealt with COVID-19 to learn how to do better.



To do this we need to look at things like

- The laws that let us make decisions in a pandemic
- The money that people and businesses got in COVID-19
- The things we did to keep people working in aged care.



We need to talk to more children and experts in the next pandemic.



We need to make sure schools can do online learning.

2. Plan and get ready



The Government should make plans for pandemics with all Governments in Australia.



We need to make sure the plans say how to support

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with disability
- People from different **cultures**
- Older people
- Children and young people
- People who live in areas far away from the city.



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

We need to make sure these plans say



- How to keep schools and child care services open in a pandemic



- How to keep people in aged care safe in a pandemic



- How we should let people in or out of Australia in a pandemic



- How to get Australians home who are stuck overseas.

We also need to make sure the plans say



- How things like food and medicines can still go in and out of Australia



- How **quarantine** should work.



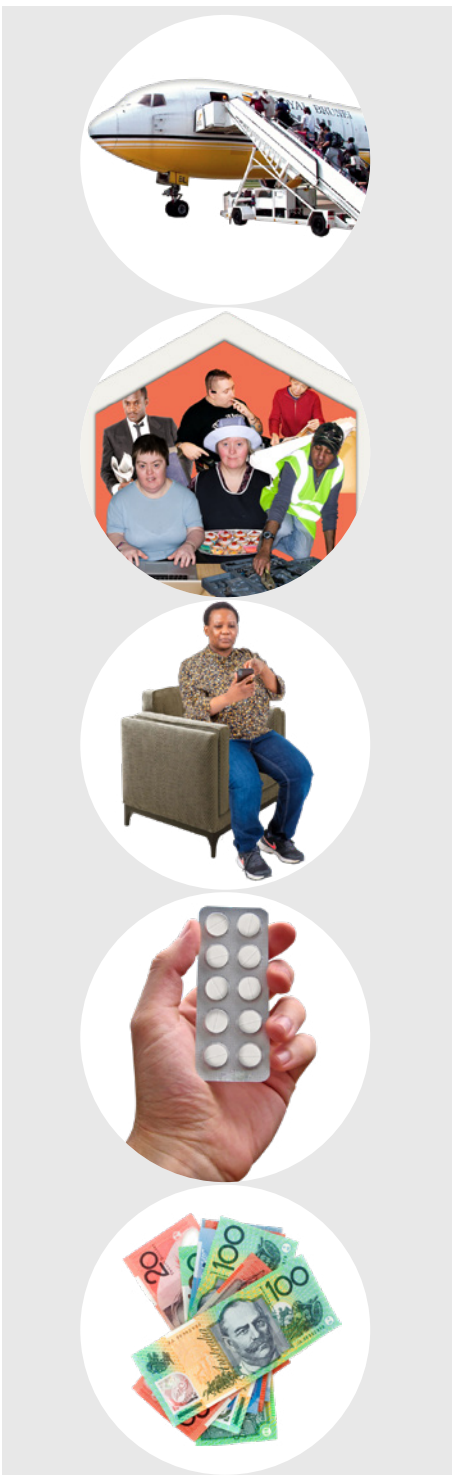
Quarantine is when you stay away from others so you do not make them sick.



The plan needs to say how to support people without homes in a pandemic.



We need to make new laws and rules that say what we can do in a health emergency.



The laws and rules should say

- How to let people in and out of Australia
- The jobs and workplaces that need to stay open in a pandemic
- How quarantine works
- What medicines we need to have ready
- Things we need for a good **economy**.

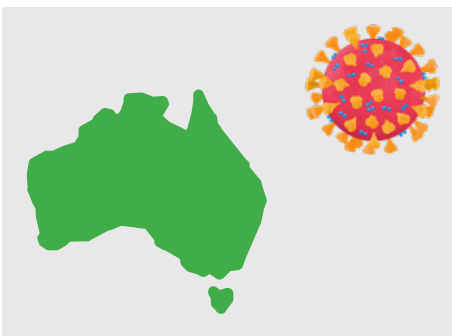


The **economy** means how Australia gets and spends money.



We need to make an **Australian Centre for Disease Control**.

We need to say **CDC** for short.

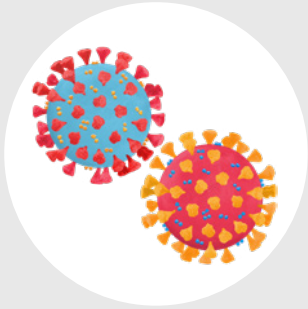


The CDC would support Australia to get ready for pandemics.



We need to support the CDC to do more things to get ready for a pandemic.

We need to make sure the CDC can



- Get and share information about different **infectious diseases**



- Give ideas to find and stop things that could make people sick



- Check if Australia is ready for a pandemic



- Make ways to get and share information about health.



Infectious diseases are when you become sick from catching a germ.



We need to support Government staff to learn what to do in a pandemic.



We need to make a plan so things can still come in and out of Australia if a pandemic happens.



This might be things like food and medicines.

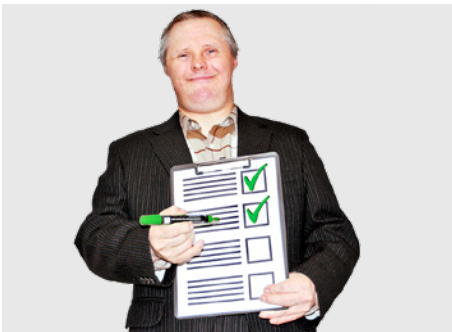
3. Have leaders that work together



We need to make ways so the **National Cabinet** can hear about the different issues for people.



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



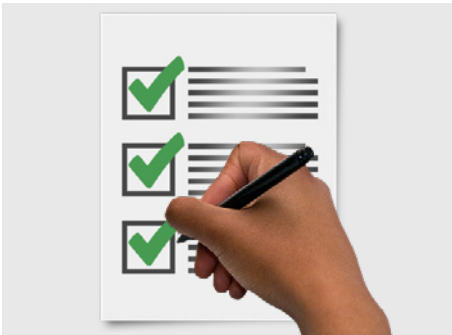
We need to agree on what all the different parts of Government can do.



We need to agree on new ways for the Government to work in a pandemic.



We need to make new groups who help the Government make decisions in a pandemic.



We need to check the different parts of Government are doing what they agreed.

4. Use evidence to make decisions



We need better ways for the Government to keep and use information.



This will help us get evidence to make decisions.



We need better ways to get information to help keep people safe and healthy.

We need this information about



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



- Children and young people



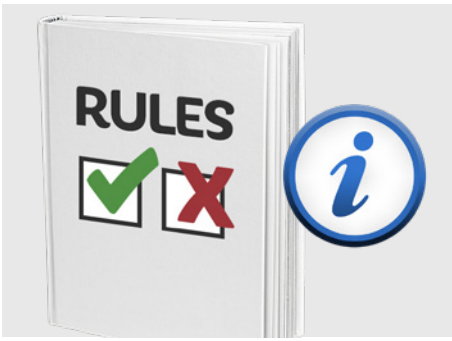
- People from different cultures



- People with disability



- People who do not have homes.



We need to make rules about how we can keep information **private** when we keep and share it.



Private means only some people are allowed to see the information.



We need to keep checking how COVID-19 is still a problem for people.

5. Be ready to do things quickly



We need to make a plan to help Government staff be ready for a pandemic.



We need to make changes so health staff can use all their **skills** in a pandemic.



Skills are things you know how to do.



We need to make sure we can give money to services quickly in a health emergency.



We need to make Government computer systems better.



This will help the Government give better services in a pandemic.

6. Have good relationships



We need to make sure the Government has better relationships with people and services.



These relationships will help us for the next pandemic.



We need to make sure the Government has good ways to talk with

- Businesses
- Health services.

We need to also make sure the Government has good ways to talk with



- Community services



- Different groups in the community like people with disability



- **Unions.**

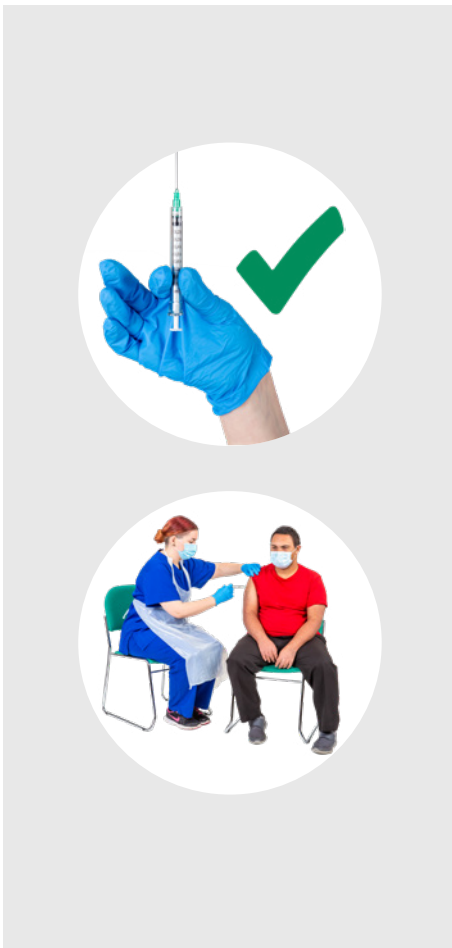


Unions are groups of workers who speak up for peoples rights at work.

7. Have trust with the community



We need to be clear about the decisions we make in a pandemic.



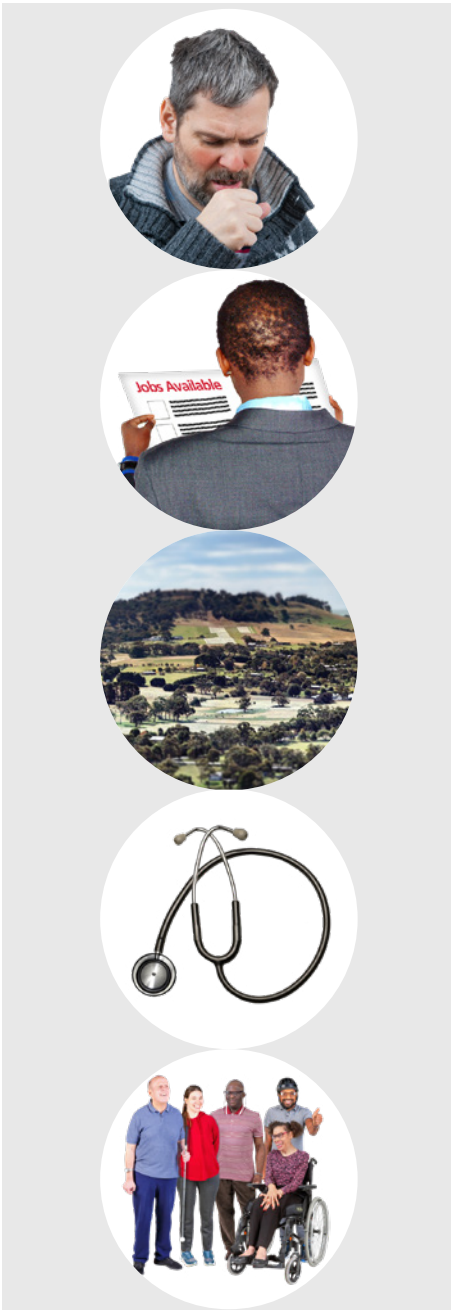
We need to make a plan for all of Australia that will support the community to

- Trust vaccines
- Choose if they get vaccines.

8. Be fair for all groups of people



There are groups of people who will go through harder things in a pandemic.



These might be people

- With health issues
- Who do not have jobs
- Who live in places far away from the city
- Who have trouble getting health care and Government services
- People with disability.



These might also be

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Older people
- Children and young people
- People from different cultures.



We need to find out what support these different groups of people need in a pandemic.



We need to make sure our pandemic plans have ways these groups can get the right support.

9. Say things in a clear way



The Government needs to make a plan for how to say things in a pandemic.



The plan needs to make sure all Australians have the information they need to stay safe.



It needs to say how the Government should speak with different groups.

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.