



FACT SHEET

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

Primary Care – COVID-19 Remote Community Preparedness and Retrieval

This measure supports remote communities to minimise the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, increase their capacity to evacuate early cases, and enable an effective response if an outbreak occurs.

Why is this important?

To ensure Australians living in remote communities are supported in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the following is being provided:

- Support for planning and preparedness activities in remote communities, including increased screening protocols to reduce travel. This includes grants for remote local governments, community organisations, land councils and peak Indigenous health bodies. Grants will be used to adapt national plans and protocols for screening and reduction of non-essential travel into community by visitors, providers and fly-in, fly-out workers.
- Early evacuation: funding for early retrieval and evacuation for people with potential COVID-19.
- Response to outbreaks: staffed mobile respiratory clinics and remote health service support. This will enable the deployment of respiratory clinics and supplementary health services in locations where there is no capacity to repurpose facilities, with additional staffing to maintain regular service delivery if disrupted.

Who benefits?

Australians living in remote communities, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, will benefit from this initiative.

How much will this cost?

This measure will cost \$57.8 million over 2019-20 and 2020-21.