

**From:** s 22  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** News; HealthCommunications  
**Subject:** RE: Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, 26 April 2020 12:36:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Yes correct

s 22

**Senior Media Adviser**

Office of the Hon. Greg Hunt MP

Minister for Health | Federal Member for Flinders

Suite M141, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

s 22

E. [minmedia@health.gov.au](mailto:minmedia@health.gov.au)

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**From:** s 22

**Sent:** Sunday, 26 April 2020 11:40 AM

**To:** s 22

**Cc:** News ; HealthCommunications

**Subject:** RE: Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s 22 thanks for this. I actually had a crack at the release yesterday. So ... this is another joint release with Mindaroo? I can presumably pull some quotes out of its release attributable to Andrew Forrest on the basis the release is run past them at some stage s 22

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**From:** s 22

**Sent:** Sunday, 26 April 2020 11:35 AM

**To:** s 22

**Subject:** FW: Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Morning mate,

s 47C

**Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt** said the Federal Government was working with Minderoo Foundation to ensure the testing operation could be rolled out as smoothly and swiftly as possible. s 47C

"Our approach to testing in Australia – already one of the highest rates per capita in the world – has been a vital part of our success in flattening the infection curve." "As we move to the next stage of our response, escalating our testing to one of, if not the highest levels globally, is the most critical step we can take to protect Australians and avoid further spikes in community transmission."

s 47C

s 22

**Senior Media Adviser**

Office of the Hon. Greg Hunt MP

Minister for Health | Federal Member for Flinders

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**From:** David Ohana s 47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 7:48 PM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** Alex Massey s 47F

**Subject:** Re: Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams [SEC=No Protective Marking]  
Hi s 22

In confidence and under embargo until **next Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April, 8am AEST** (final timings TBC), kindly find below a draft of the NSTAT Media Release for review/Minister Hunt quote approval.

As mentioned it would be great to touch base on next week's announcement at your earliest convenience.

Happy to speak anytime over the weekend or Monday. Alex s 47F will also be working on the launch.

Best wishes,

David

s 47F

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## **Minderoo Foundation's National Security Through Accelerated Testing (NSTAT) initiative empowers Government to defeat COVID-19 in Australia**

**29 April 2020** - Minderoo Foundation, in collaboration with the Federal Government, today announced the NSTAT initiative, establishing s 47C increase in total daily COVID-19 testing capability across the nation. This RT qPCR specific to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) population testing will be key to eliminating the virus and liberating Australia.

NSTAT, made possible through Minderoo Foundation's balance sheet commitment of \$320million to fight the virus, s 47C

substantially  
increases Australia's capacity to test for the virus s 47C

The testing uses a highly specialised real time 'polymerase chain reaction' (PCR) process. This powerful additional capability will enable widespread screening across the population. At a time when global demand for COVID-19 testing is soaring, a major challenge for labs is access to the reagents which drive the tests. Minderoo Foundation was able to secure vital access to the necessary equipment and critical reagent supplies, and transport s 47C

COVID-19 testing labs to Australia from China, on 10 chartered flights, the last of which landed on 26 April. This includes some <sup>s 47C</sup> COVID-19 tests of which one third has already arrived in <sup>C</sup> Australia.

Working with leading Australian diagnostic industry partners, the installed labs are being commissioned at 11 sites around Australia to test samples from all states and territories. This has been done in an unprecedented three week timeframe, from purchase to operation, drawing on deep international relationships, expertise and experience from across the private sector, in close collaboration with each State and the Federal Government.

**Minderoo Foundation Chairman, Dr Andrew Forrest AO**, said “during times of national emergency and crisis, all parts of society must come together for the national interest.”

“There are many reasons that increasing testing capacity is so critical. It allows Government to isolate the virus instead of the entire population and extinguish its growth instead of our economy. NSTAT also protects our courageous healthcare workers on the frontline and makes sure our healthcare systems remain strong and resilient to future challenges. It provides the confidence the Government requires to lift restrictions to rapidly expedite getting the country back to work.”

“By connecting people from across the commercial, research and healthcare sectors, we’ve been able to accelerate the set-up of these labs, to help pull Australia out of its economic deep freeze.”

**Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt** said the Federal Government was working with Minderoo Foundation to ensure the testing operation could be rolled out as smoothly and swiftly as possible.

<sup>s 47C</sup>

“Our approach to testing in Australia – already one of the highest rates per capita in the world – has been a vital part of our success in flattening the infection curve.”

“As we move to the next stage of our response, escalating our testing to one of, if not the highest levels globally, is the most critical step we can take to protect Australians and avoid further spikes in community transmission.”

<sup>s 47C</sup>

**Chairman of BGI Genomics, Wang Jian said,** “Australia and Dr Forrest supported China in our hour of need. We simply committed to do the same, and our goal is that these labs and reagents, which proved effective in controlling the crisis in China, will support Australia to emerge from its outbreak with the confidence this testing capacity brings.”

“Based on the strength of the relationship, we were able to protect supply chains for this extremely rare equipment, and have Andrew deliver it straight to Australia. I’ve been calling the s 47C tests ‘the Twiggy Tests’ and I hope they will be used to clear Australia of this virus.”

“It is my dearest wish that Andrew’s effort, and that of the Minderoo Foundation and Australian Government, make Australia the first country to join China’s strong recovery from COVID-19,” Wang Jian said.

**Dr Steve Burnell, who heads the Minderoo Foundation’s Collaborate Against Cancer Initiative and now also directs Minderoo’s entire COVID-19 initiative** explained that the new NSTAT labs employs a highly specialised process to immediately detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral ribonucleic acid (RNA) in a patient’s sample, using equipment and reagent supplies provided by BGI.

“This capability is being deployed within existing clinical laboratory

facilities across Australia, where experienced pathology teams will conduct the testing. <sup>s 47C</sup>

This NSTAT infrastructure will help protect Australia not just from COVID-19, but will remain a valuable asset protecting Australia from other pandemics. <sup>s 47C</sup>

said Dr Burnell.

Both Dr Forrest and Dr Burnell expressly thanked Mr Luke Miels the President, Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline who was fortunately quarantining in Perth with his West Australian family, who with Dr Burnell, drove the NSTAT initiative.

Mr Luke Miels remarked "it is a privilege to have been on the ground in Australia to lend a hand to our country in this incredible capacity. Minderoo typically threw the reigns at me and are a group of outstanding teammates who are committed, like I am, to the best future possible for all Australians."

**Dr Forrest** reiterated his personal commitment to the NSTAT initiative and defeating COVID-19. "We will never ever give up, until all Australians can return to their loved ones and lives. We will not stop until the fear of this virus has been relegated to history."


- END

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**David Ohana**  
Minderoo



<sup>s 47F</sup>

PO Box 3155, Broadway Nedlands, WA 6009 Australia  
[www.minderoo.org](http://www.minderoo.org) | [www.minderoogroup.com](http://www.minderoogroup.com)

 Please note we will be moving to our new home at The Swan. <b>Address:</b> 171-173 Mounts Bay Road, Perth, WA 6000 Australia	
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**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Please note most of the Minderoo Foundation and Minderoo Group teams are now working remotely. We're still very much here to support our partners and initiatives. Our commitment to **Arrest Unfairness and Create Opportunities to Better the World** is unwavering. From our Minderoo **family** to yours, we wish you good health and

**safety** as we navigate these challenging times, together. Ultimately **courage, determination** and **kindness**, will win out.

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**From:** David Ohana **s 47F**

**Date:** Friday, 24 April 2020 at 12:07 pm

**To:** **s 22**

**Cc:** Alex Massey **s 47F**

**Subject:** Re: Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams

Dear **s 22**

It would be great to connect ASAP.

Might you have time for a quick touch base anytime between 2:30pm and 5:30pm AEST today?  
With best wishes,

David

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**From:** Steve Burnell **s 47F**

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 April 2020 at 10:01 am

**To:** **s 22**

**Cc:** David Ohana **s 47F** **s 22**  
Alex Massey **s 47F**

**Subject:** Connecting Minderoo Foundation & Minister Hunt's comms teams

Hi **s 22**

I wanted to put you in direct contact with the Minderoo Foundation comms team, led by David Ohana. I understand from **s 22** that you are leading Minister Hunt's press office and coordinating the event next Monday in Melbourne where the NSTAT COVID19 testing capability will be announced.

I know David, **s 47F** and Alex (copied here) are keen to coordinate with your team on this and I'd appreciate it if you would connect with them ASAP.

Many thanks!  
Steve

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**Steve Burnell**

Minderoo Foundation



s 47F

PO Box 3155, Broadway Nedlands, WA 6009 Australia  
[www.minderoo.org](http://www.minderoo.org)

	
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<p><b>Address:</b> 171-173 Mounts Bay Road, Perth, WA 6000 Australia</p>	

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