

Dear Participants, employees and families,

As you are no doubt aware the Victorian Government issued a Stage 3 Stay at Home order for Melbourne Metropolitan suburbs, effective midnight on the 8th of July, this impacts the following Hubs – Thomastown, Brunswick, Bellfield, Bayswater, Seaford, Mornington and Frankston. Whilst our Hubs in Mildura, Wonthaggi, Bendigo, and Traralgon are not impacted directly by this announcement, Mildura is impacted by the closure of state borders.

As a community we have experienced this before and I am sure this news is upsetting for many. We only recently ramped up some of our day service operations and were looking forward to welcoming back even more participants in the coming weeks. However, the safety, wellbeing and engagement of our participants and staff has been at the forefront of every decision we have made during the pandemic and I write to you now to explain what measures Connecting2Australia is taking in this changed environment.

According to the Stay at Home Order there are only four reasons people in affected areas can leave home for the next six weeks:

1. Shopping for food and supplies
2. Care and caregiving
3. Exercise
4. Study and work (if you cannot do this from home)

What this means for people attending our services

Work Connections

Our Work Connections crews will continue operations as they are considered an essential service. However, we understand if you would like to take leave during this period – you can discuss your options with your Hub Business Manager. Mildura Hub staff have applied for and received border crossing permits to enable travel to and from work and for travel to complete normal operations.

We remind you that if you feel unwell do not attend work.

Community Connections

During the initial lockdown Connecting2Australia continued to deliver supports to some of our participants with extra support requirements. Recently we spoke to participants and families about returning in small groups at the Community Connections Hubs. Our regional Hubs, Traralgon and Wonthaggi will continue with the phasing in of small groups with some community access activities where suitable. Our metropolitan Hubs, Frankston and Mornington, will continue with small groups but will deliver all supports from the respective Hubs. To discuss your personal support options please contact your Hub Business Manager or Senior Support.

These are very unsettling times. If you or a loved one would like information that may help below are two resources:

Beyond Blue www.beyondblue.org.au or 1300 22 4636

Dept. of Social Services at www.dss.gov.au/disabilityhelp or 1800 643 787

If you would like to discuss any of the information provided above, please contact us on 1300 111 212 or by email info@c2a.org.au

Stay safe at home, at C2A and at your work sites.