

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

COVID-19 is a new virus that can cause severe health issues.

Why is mob more at risk?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 who have other health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung conditions, or immune problems are more at risk of becoming very ill with coronavirus.

How to keep our mob safe?

1. Stop gatherings with mob

If you live in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire you must stay at home. You can only leave home for one of the four reasons for the next five weeks – shopping for food and supplies, care and caregiving, exercise, and study and work, if you can't do it from home.

Only two people can be together outside of your home. If more than two people live in your house, that's ok, but only the people who live in your house should be there.

2. Greet mob from afar

Handshakes, hugs and kisses are not safe during this time. If you see mob around, keep 1.5 metres apart and give a proper blackfella wave instead.

3. Keep healthy

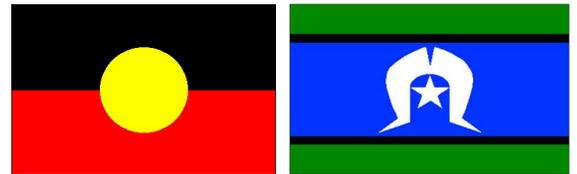
Keep exercising, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and try to quit smoking. Call Quitline on 137 848.

4. Sorry Business

If you live in the Melbourne metro area which includes Darebin and Mitchell Council only 10 people plus funeral staff may attend. While Sorry Business is important, these rules are here to help protect mob and our Elders plus you could be fined. You could also look at doing Sorry Business over a video conferencing software such as Zoom or Skype.

5. Yarn online

If you want to catch up and yarn with mob, use Facebook, FaceTime or just the deadly phone like the old days.



Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who are the Traditional Owners of the land.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

We pay our respects to Elders, present and emerging.

Where to get support and information

Aboriginal Partnerships Officer

Our Aboriginal Partnerships Officer is available to provide you with help to contact different services that you might need.

Contact Stuart McFarlane on 8470 8366 or Stuart.McFarlane@darebin.vic.gov.au

Health information

The Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the best place to find out about all the latest health advice and information on restrictions: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

There's a specific section for resources designed for the Aboriginal community:

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-information-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities

Getting tested

If you have any symptoms, it's especially important to go and get tested at the moment to stop the spread of COVID-19.

To find out more visit the DHHS website or call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398.

Council services

We're working to bring back all the services that have been interrupted by COVID-19. This is a fast-changing situation, so for all the latest information please visit:

www.darebin.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

This page also has information on support available from council for our community and businesses. Including a guide to access food relief and essential items as well as help with payment of Council rates, fees & charges.

Call us to discuss what help is available on 8470 8888

Legal advice

Should you need free legal advice, you can contact:

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
1800 064 865 (Free call)

Darebin Community Legal Centre
(Fitzroy Legal Service)
9484 7753