



Dear Residents of the Berowra Electorate,

Over the last few days, there has been an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in and around the Berowra electorate. The confirmed cases are linked to the following locations:

- PharmaSave Pharmacy at Cherrybrook on Thursday 6 August between 4pm and 7pm
- St Agatha's Pennant Hills between 6:30am -7:00am on 5 or 6 August
- Tangara School for Girls in Cherrybrook

If you were at PharmaSave Pharmacy at Cherrybrook or St Agatha's Pennant Hills at the dates and times specified above, the advice is that you should monitor for symptoms and if they occur, get tested and isolate immediately.

NSW Health has advised that all staff and students at the Secondary Campus of Tangara School for Girls must be tested as soon as possible and remain isolated until Friday 21 August, even if a negative test is returned. The secondary school will now be closed for onsite learning until Monday, August 24.

The Primary School Campus of the school will also be closed until tomorrow but will reopen from Wednesday for students whose parents have challenges and need to send their children to school. Students of the Primary School should monitor for symptoms and get tested if any symptoms occur, no matter how mild.

My thoughts are with everyone at Tangara School, St Agatha's Pennant Hills and PharmaSave Pharmacy who are doing a great but difficult job responding to the cases that have appeared.

To stay up to date with the COVID-19 cases, monitor the health alerts at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

If you need to get tested, please visit the NSW Government website on what you need to do and where you can go to get tested: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics>

I have included information about the most recent Government announcements, the latest health advice as well as other updates from me as your representative in this newsletter.

Unfortunately due to the recent cases in the electorate, we are not currently accepting visitors to the electorate office. My office is still open and my team and I remain available to assist you however we can via telephone and email.

If my staff or I can assist you in any way, in the days ahead, please don't hesitate to phone my office on (02) 9980 1822 or email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au.

Kind regards,
Julian Leeser

NSW advice about masks

NSW residents are now being asked to wear face masks in high-risk public settings.

The advice from the NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant specifically recommends:

- the use of [face masks](#) in indoor settings where [physical distancing](#) is hard to maintain, such as on public transport or in supermarkets
- the use of face masks (where practical) in indoor settings with a higher risk of transmission, such as for the staff of hospitality and customer-facing venues i.e. cafes, restaurants, pubs and clubs
- during attendance at places of worship.



Masks should be considered a “fourth line of defence” after staying home and getting tested if unwell, maintaining 1.5-metre social distancing and practising good hand hygiene.

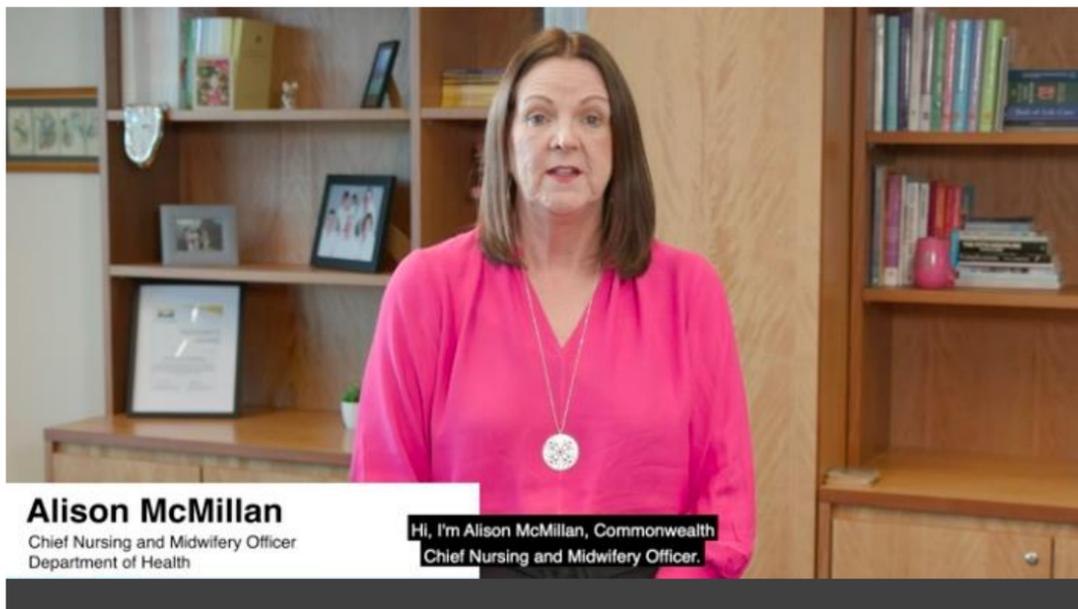
Anyone with Coronavirus [symptoms](#) should immediately be tested and self-isolate.

For face masks to effectively protect you and the people around you, **it is important to adhere to medical advice on how to wear face masks.**

Masks should be:

- ideally made from three layers of breathable fabric to ensure adequate protection; and
- washed after each use or at least daily.

The Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer explains how to put a face mask on in this video.



More Support for Businesses and Workers

The introduction of stage four restrictions in Victoria will have a severe impact on the Australian economy.

The Morrison Government announced on the weekend that we will help more businesses by easing the eligibility criteria to make it easier for organisations to qualify for the JobKeeper extension from 28 September 2020.

The key changes, which apply nationally, include:

A change to the employee reference date

From 3 August 2020 the relevant date of employment for an eligible employee will move from 1 March to 1 July 2020, expanding employee eligibility.

A change to the turnover reference period

To be eligible for JobKeeper after 28 September 2020, organisations will only have to demonstrate that their actual turnovers have significantly declined in the previous quarter.

These changes mean organisations that can demonstrate a significant decline in turnover in the September 2020 quarter will be able to access the JobKeeper extension in the December quarter. An organisation able to demonstrate the requisite decline in turnover in the December 2020 quarter would be able to access the JobKeeper extension in the March 2021 quarter.

The economic deterioration in Victoria and the eligibility changes being made to the program will see the cost of JobKeeper increase by around \$15.6 billion in 2020-21.

It is now expected that around four million Australians will be benefiting from JobKeeper Payments at the end of the September quarter, falling to around 2.24 million in the December quarter and 1.75 million in the March 2021 quarter.

[More information about the extension of JobKeeper](#)

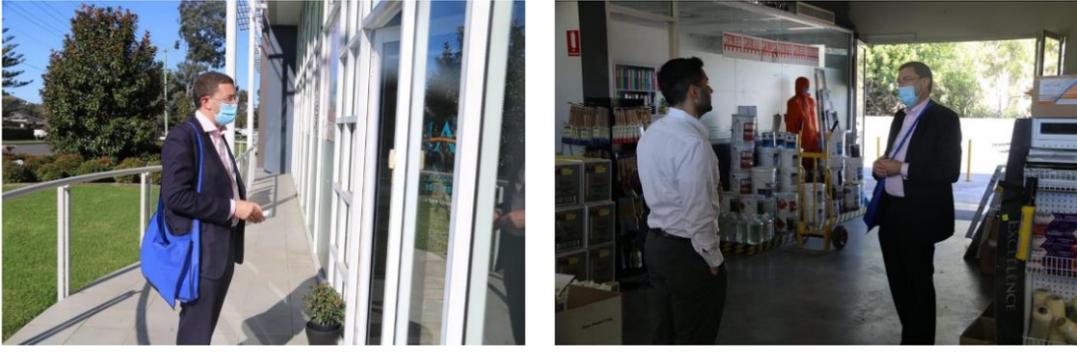
Hearing from Businesses

Throughout the last few months I have been listening carefully to the feedback people and businesses in our community have been giving me about the impacts of COVID-19 on our community.

Over the past few weeks I have been taking the opportunity to meet with businesses particularly.

Many have been able to stay open and continue employing their staff because of JobKeeper and other Government assistance.

I invite businesses to contact me if you have any feedback regarding the provisions Government has put in place to assist you to continue to employ your staff and to continue operating. Please email me at julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au



Submission to Bushfire Royal Commission

I have recently made a late submission to the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements.

There are two reasons I made this submission. First, I want to ensure that any recommendations made by the Royal Commission not only consider areas affected by the 2019/2020 bushfire season **but also other areas prone to natural disaster such as the Berowra electorate.**

Second, to indicate my major concern that the **inadequate investment in telecommunications in the Berowra electorate** and other outer suburban areas needs to be addressed in order to improve people's safety in the event of a bushfire or flood.

The Gosper's Mountain fire came dangerously close to the Berowra electorate. Had the Gosper's Mountain fire jumped the Hawkesbury River, lives and property in large areas of the electorate would have been at risk.

I have made strong recommendations to the Royal Commission about the need to guarantee the functioning of telecommunications systems to ensure emergency services can communicate and residents can reliably receive messages to evacuate in a bushfire or flood situation.

Mental Health

Many of us are feeling significant pressure because of coronavirus and the ongoing uncertainty it has created. We will get through this. If you need help at the moment, you are not alone.

Reach out to family and friends and let them know. You can also contact many organisations who are here for you and can provide support during this difficult time.



If you need mental health support, please reach out to the organisations below:

Lifeline
131 114

Beyond Blue
1300 22 46 36

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800

NSW Mental Health Line
1800 011 511

Suicide Call Back Service
1300 659 467

Mentoring Men
1300 583 925

In the Media

I joined the ABC Weekend Breakfast Pollie Panel on Saturday to discuss the JobKeeper expansion announcement this week and the Government's other pandemic support measures. You can watch the segment below.

