

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Deputy Premier Steven Miles and Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young

Date: 1 August 2020

Duration: 24 minutes

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*E&OE*

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

One new case today, bringing our total number of cases now to 1084, 12 are active and six are in hospital. The new additional case is the wife of the person we confirmed yesterday had COVID-19, so fortunately she was already quarantining. She worked at the Bolton Clark aged care facility at Pinjarra Hills. We were already taking actions at that centre to protect the residents there, it is possible there is an overlap between the period she was infectious and when she was working at the facility. There are 105 residents there and 150 staff. The facility has been locked down. We're providing additional nurses from the Metro North HHS to assist them. They are doing a fantastic job, they've been working really with us and we are working with them to keep all of their residents safe. Of course, it is possible that the workforce there has relations with other workers in other aged care facilities and so the Chief Health Officer will later today be issuing further directions to protect residents in other aged care facilities across the city and the northern Gold Coast. Queenslanders did an amazing job yesterday, I am incredibly proud of them, we cracked our record number of COVID-19 tests, we smashed past it in fact. 11,561 Queenslanders were tested yesterday, well more than that daily goal of 5000 a day, and it says that people, particularly on the south side and towards Ipswich did what we asked them to do and that was go and get tested. I want to especially thank our pathology staff, they have done an incredible job working round the clock to process that many tests. It is in fact more than our usual capacity of tests, but they managed to do it and I want to thank them. I am also advised that the steps we put in place yesterday to address those long waits were successful and that there were shorter waits across, particularly metro south, yesterday and that they got shorter during the day. I'd urge anyone who needs to get tested today to still get tested, don't let those waits put you off. But before you go, get on the Queensland Health website, put in your postcode, it will give you a list of locations where you can go and get tested. It is not just our fever clinics, in fact in Metro South there are 56 locations in which you can get a COVID test. 12 of those are fever clinics but 44 are private providers such as Sullivan Nicolades and QML and they do a great job at doing these tests. In West Moreton there are 22 locations, 17 of them private, five of them fever clinics. And in Metro North there are 57 locations you can get tested. So there is a wide range of options. If you go to a fever clinic and there is a long line, please consider going somewhere else if you are able. Of course, given that it is the weekend I would urge you to check the opening times, some of those locations won't be open all weekend, some will close at midday today. Our contact tracers have also done a fantastic job, the last report I received there were just 32 more contacts remaining to be contacted, which is fantastic. Late yesterday, late last night we

released a list of locations that the person we confirmed had COVID yesterday had been in the period in which they may have been infections, and I know that people will be checking that list and if they have been in those locations and they have any concerns at all for their health, they should go and get tested. There is no need to panic. If you've been to one of those locations, there is no need to panic, it is simply us providing you with information that you may have been in a location where someone may have been infectious. It is designed to assist you in assessing what your level of risk is and go and get tested if you believe you should. Early reports out of Victoria today are, of course, very promising that they may have seen a reduction in their case numbers and we continue to have them in our thoughts and continue to be available to assist them if required. At 1am this morning new border restrictions came into place. I am advised by police that in the last 24 hours they intercepted 76... passengers arriving on 76 flights, 5975 people coming or returning to Queensland, 114 of those were diverted to hotel quarantine, one was refused entry and turned around at the airport. At the physical border, 6745 vehicles were intercepted, 80 of those were refused entry to the state, 35 were asked to go to hotel quarantine. I can also advise that police are investigating an incident where it appears that two people have attempted to stowaway in the back of a truck. Those people will be charged for breaching the COVID travel restrictions and it should send a message to anyone who thinks they might be able to get around our travel restrictions, thinks they might be able to hide in a boot or find some other way of getting into the state, that police are checking vehicles, they will be caught and the penalties are significant. Police also advised that they visited 406 licensed venues last night. No fines were issued, and in fact, compliance with the rules was very, very high and police as well as our team would like to thank all of those venues and all of those patrons who've done the right thing to keep us all safe.

**DR YOUNG:**

Thank you Deputy Premier. So, one new case overnight and we are going to expect that over the next few days. This lady is the wife of the gentleman that we confirmed the day before. She works in that Bolton Clark facility at Pinjarra Hills and they have done the most amazing job. Now we do think that it was possible that she was infectious when she worked her last shift at that facility, so we are going to continue to have that facility in lockdown. It is a superb facility, it couldn't be better set up for a situation like this. All of the residents have their own private bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, and the staff are absolutely superb. So we will be working with them, we are going to provide additional staff because there are going to be some staff that will need to go into quarantine, and we are also going to ask them to monitor those patients, residents sorry, much more closely for any symptoms. We will be testing all of those residents and the staff. So this is to assist that nursing home to manage all of those residents. Now if I could say to the relatives of those residents, who must be very, very, very concerned, I assure them that their loved ones are receiving the best possible care and I have no concerns about that. So I know that the facility is organizing ways for their residents to talk to their families, that'll be put in place and we will see what happens over the next week or so, but this is the best possible place for those residents. If any of them do test positive though, we will immediately move them to a hospital. Not because I don't think that the facility could manage them – the could – but I just think it makes it much more reassuring for everyone that any positive confirmed case moves to a hospital and is looked after there. So, we've had no other cases confirmed which is fantastic news, because more than 11,000

people came forward to be tested, which is the best response I could possibly imagine. So I am very comfortable that out there we are testing enough people so that we should be able to pick up any other cases. I just ask all of the community to continue what they've been doing, if they have any symptoms or concerns at all, to come forward and be tested. The hospital and health services and the private pathology firms have done a really good job standing up more clinics. So, I am really sorry that people had to wait for so long initially until that was all sorted, but I thank you very much for your perseverance and there'll be shorter queues now, that has all been managed. It is really important, as we go forward, that people do those three things that I ask every single day. I am sure that it is tedious but I am going to continue repeating those three things. So if you are at all unwell, any symptoms, just isolate yourself and get tested. The second one, really and truly maintain social distancing wherever possible, and we've seen a lot more adherence to that over the last 24 hours, which is a really good thing. And the third is reconsider your need to go to either New South Wales, Victoria or overseas, this is not the time to be leaving Queensland and going to other places where there are a lot more cases. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, with the residents who are being tested, do you expect all those tests to be finished up today and will all the staff be tested as well?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, all of the residents, all of the staff and we will try and do it today. But of course, with 150 staff, they're not all there working all the time. So we will get around to them all.

**REPORTER:**

Does lockdown get lifted once you get those first negative results, or do you keep the lockdown in place for the near future?

**DR YOUNG:**

Not for that facility, no. We will need to keep that in place for the 14 days after the staff member last worked there.

**REPORTER:**

Are you expecting to release an updated list of venues that the new woman has visited [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

If she has been to any, but look, she and her husband have been absolutely model citizens. They really and truly have been unbelievably fantastic. So, you might remember that her husband actually went and got himself tested because he was unwell before any of this was out there in the community. So, he was a really fantastic person, and similarly with his partner. So, they've been out there minimizing their contacts since they first realized there as an issue. But yes, that is the work we'll be doing today to find out whether there is any other places that that lady has been to. The most important one, of course, was her work which was the nursing home.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] businesses that come out on the list, are you advising them to do a deep clean, or are they taking that initiative for themselves?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is variable. Of course we are advising them, but can I say most people... we're six months into this pandemic, most people know what to do now and they're out there doing it before we get in touch with them, they're brilliant. The vast, vast majority of businesses and of people in Queensland are doing absolutely everything that is needed.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, since those cases have cropped up this week, we've seen [inaudible] looking at their dinner reservations, parties have been cancelled. What is your advice to the community, is it time yet to be cancelling their dinner reservations, or is it safe to go out in the community?

**DR YOUNG:**

I am not going to criticize anyone for doing anything that is very safe, that is fantastic. As I said before, I think Queenslanders know exactly what to do and they're making their own assessments and making their own decisions and I commend every single one of them. So, if people feel more comfortable cancelling things, then I think they should go ahead and do that. At this point in time I am still concerned. I mean, we have had this cluster of cases and we're not through it yet, so I think this is the time to just go back and remember all those basic principles: 1.5 metre distance, wash your hands, decrease some numbers of people you're coming into contact with, because your risk increases every time, you, in a day if you come into contact with 100 people versus one person, you've got 100 times the chance of getting it. So look, everyone, if you feel more comfortable managing your risks by cancelling things, then I commend you for it.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] too safe though, would you encourage that?

**DR YOUNG:**

I am always going to be too safe, that is my job and I will always recommend people to err on the side of caution. It is so easy for this virus to get out of control. We've seen it. We've seen it in Victoria, a very good thorough competent state that knows what they're doing, and look what they're having to deal with. So, this is a virus that is fairly easy to transmit so I think we've got to be cautious, I really do. I don't think you could be too cautious.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, some AFL clubs were fined yesterday. How disappointing is it that there seems to be some non-compliance there?

**DR YOUNG:**

There is always going to be non-compliance, of course there is. And with younger people, it is going to be harder for them, I don't underestimate that. It is important that people get the messages and we have got the best possible police service, I think anywhere in the world, that are really and truly helping people and so they are using education initially. But if people are flouting the rules, then they are fining people. And I think that is important, we can't be half-hearted about this. If people are going to flout the rules we've got to use all our strategies to manage that.

**REPORTER:**

Apparently there has been an issue with some people arriving at the airport without the correct paperwork, what happens to them? Are they going to straight into hotel quarantine, where do they go?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

That would depend on the situation, but people are able to apply for the border pass on their electronic device on arrival, but we'd urge them not to do that, we urge them to get the paperwork sorted before they attempt to come here. Of course, the ramifications of getting it wrong can be being refused entry and sent back and you might have difficulty getting a flight back to your home, or going into that hotel quarantine and having to foot the bill for it. We really did urge people to get home before that I am cut off. I understand that the number of arrivals has dropped off a lot today, that the delays at the border has dropped off a lot today and that suggests that people have heard that message.

**REPORTER:**

With those people that snuck in the back of the truck, have you got some more details about which part of the border they tried to get across and where they'd come from?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I understand that police will issue a more detailed statement later in the day where there is more information to hand, but that this issue was identified in Gympie, there were two people in the back of a truck who had snuck across the border.

**REPORTER:**

There is some vision that has emerged of people not social distancing outside nightclubs in the Valley last night, is this a concern?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I have seen those pictures, and of course we encourage people to take steps to ensure that they keep themselves safe. And that is keeping that social distance outside of the venue, it is all of our own responsibilities to do that. I might ask the Chief Health Officer though to address the level of risk, because it is...

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

As I say, there were 400-odd inspections of licensed premises last night and they were all doing the right thing, so that is a very good sign and it is inside those venues that we're most concerned about the social distancing.

**DR YOUNG:**

Outside is so much safer than inside, that is why we're holding all of these press conference, most days, outside. It really is nowhere near the same degree of risk as inside. There are multiple reasons for that, first you're in an enclosed space, secondly inside the turnover of air is a lot less, if we just think how often that air turns over and the filters that are used are not usually those very high-grade filters that are used, say in a plane, and people just gather inside. Plus in a lot of clubs and nightclubs and pubs there is a lot of alcohol involved. So people forget the social distancing, which is why a few weeks ago I asked everyone to return to being seated because that then automatically at least creates some social distancing. Outside you don't have the alcohol, you've got the air which is continually moving through, and also if you look at those queues, people don't move around in queues, they stay in their spot in the queue and they stay with that group of people. But once they go inside, they start moving around and they start interacting with more people. So outside is a lot less dangerous than inside. Having said that, I would still of course prefer that different household groups maintain that 1.5 metre distance, there is not problem if you live in a household with someone but you've got smaller groupings because you're sharing your house with them every single day, but other people should try and maintain that distance.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

The briefing we got from police this morning said that while towards the deadline there were long waits up to 90 minutes, today the wait at the border is more like 10 minutes which suggests that that rush of people to get back has not slowed. Of course, Queenslanders are still welcome to come home, we want them to come home but they'll need to go into quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

We considered whether charging would be a disincentive at the time that we implemented those charges, but we'd spent something like \$20 million already putting people in hotel quarantine and we'd made an assessment that people had had long enough to make the decision to come home, and that is why we put those charges in place. We need to balance both making sure people comply with the rules, with the impact on taxpayers and so I think that decision there is reasonable. There are hardship arrangements for people who might not be able to afford to pay for that hotel quarantine. It has been incredibly important, it is what has kept Queenslanders safe, that secure hotel quarantine. It continues to work very, very well.

Of course we continually assess it, but as I said the other day, I don't think cost was the reason was that those girls didn't go into quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] about how many people have been granted those hardship exemptions?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I don't have that to hand but I am happy get some more information for you.

**REPORTER:**

Could you please clarify how many of the women who brought the virus here from Melbourne attended the dinner at the Korean restaurant?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

There was the three women who travelled to Melbourne, two have been confirmed as positive. The third has been tested as negative. I understand one of two of them were at the Korean restaurant. The first one that was tested positive.

**REPORTER:**

Do you have a condition update on the women that came back from Melbourne?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

They're not in ICU obviously, they're not in that report.

**REPORTER:**

Who is paying for them and their families to be in hotel quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

The state government is because I asked them to go into quarantine just to be absolutely as careful as I possibly could.

**REPORTER:**

Hypothetically somebody at this aged care home got the virus and passed away, would those women be charged under manslaughter laws?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

What offences they're charged with will be a matter for police and what penalties are applied are a matter for the courts, but it does underline just how serious this is. If people break the rules, other people's relatives, other people's family members could get sick or even die. The assurance I want to give to everyone at that aged care facility is the facility is doing everything very, very well, staff are doing everything very, very well. Queensland Health is providing all of the support and resources and testing that we possibly can and if anyone gets unwell, we will identify that very quickly, we will transfer them to hospital very quickly and they will get world-class care at our fantastic Queensland hospitals.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] on AFL clubs, what the directions were?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I don't. no we don't.

**REPORTER:**

What are the chances of a second wave, and I guess was... back in March when you had all those cases, was that considered the first wave given a lot of them were coming back from overseas?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

We could describe that as our first wave and our effort now is to suppress the number of cases so that we don't experience a second wave. Certainly, you'd characterize Victoria's experience as a second wave.

**REPORTER:**

And we haven't have too many patients come out of this yet, how long will it be until we know the extent of this quarantine breach? Will it be two weeks, one week, a couple of days?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Each day gives more certainty, but you'd have to wait two weeks before you were sure that there wasn't community transmission from these cases.

**REPORTER:**

Just quickly for a colleague, Dave Hutchison resigning as LNP President, your thoughts?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

The Palaszczuk Government is focused on the health and jobs of Queenslanders while the LNP is focused on themselves. I guess the question now is who will Clive Palmer choose next to run the LNP?

[ENDS]



Event: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk; Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer and Minister Shannon Fentiman

Airdate: Sunday 2 August 2020

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**PREMIER:**

In news overnight we only have one new case and it is a returning traveller from overseas who is in quarantine. So my advice is we do not have any concern about that case. We have 13 active cases in Queensland. In the past 24 hours, we have had over 13,703 tests and Doctor Young will talk bit more about the testing but from the outset too can I thank all Queenslanders who have been coming out in getting tested and just remember too, if you are sick, stay at home and get tested. We are not out of the woods yet. The next week is still very critical, so of course we're going to monitoring everything very, very closely over the forthcoming week.

Now to the families who have loved ones at the Bolton Clarke residential home at Pinjarra Hills. Some good news. There have been 105 tests done overnight and 104 are negative so that is excellent news, and Doctor Young will talk a little bit more about why we are not concerned about the person as well.

So look this is wonderful news and I do want to thank the families of the loved ones, and I just want to assure everyone that we're doing everything possible to keep your loved ones safe during this time. And Doctor Young will talk about additional measures we are putting in place for aged care homes across some areas around Brisbane and the southeast just as a precautionary measure. We don't want people to be alarmed, but we want to take these precautions now just in case, so we are very, very comfortable with the figures overnight but of course that next week is very, very crucial.

We have also had an update from the police in relation to the borders and there is very solid work happening there at the borders - I want to reassure Queenslanders that hard border closure with Victoria is still in place and of course greater Sydney is now a hot spot, and the police are doing exceptional work there protecting Queensland families. We have had a number of people that have been refused entry over the last 24 hours and also too last night, police went out and checked 383 licensed premises right throughout the southeast and Queensland as well, just making sure people were doing the right thing in the reports are back and the reports are that the police are very comfortable with what they have seen overnight.

Queenslanders are listening, we're doing the right thing and we are in a bit of uncharted waters at the moment, but we've got through things worse than this before and I'm quite confident that it will pitch in together and do the right thing, and we keep practising our

social distancing and making sure we do good hand hygiene it will definitely make sure that it stands Queensland in very good stead. So, I'll hand over now to Doctor Young.

**DR YOUNG:**

Thank-you Premier. So one new case in Queensland overnight, a gentleman in his 20s who returned from overseas and went into quarantine. He did fly into Queensland via Sydney, so he flew Jetstar flight JQ790 from Sydney to Maroochydore on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July. So we are at the moment contact tracing people who are close to him on that flight. And they should expect to receive calls today. But if any of them hear this message then could they please ring 13-HEALTH. That's our only case over the last 24 hours which is excellent. So we remain at five cases now related to that trip made by those three women down to Melbourne. It's really important that anyone who lives in the southern part of Brisbane, Logan, West Moreton, anyone in those areas who have been unwell, to come forward and get tested. The response to date has been fantastic, and as a result of that, we've got those five cases to date and will continue doing all of that testing.

Today we tipped over the half a million mark of numbers of Queenslanders tested for COVID-19 since this pandemic began which is an amazing result from Queenslanders. And I continue to encourage Queenslanders to do those three really important things. So first if they're unwell to stay home and get themselves tested as quickly as possible. The second is to maintain social distancing as much as they possible can whenever they are. So maintain 1.5metre distance and wash their hands regularly. And the third is please reconsider any need to travel to any hot spot. So today that is anywhere in Sydney, all of Victoria and anywhere overseas. It is really important because that is where the large numbers of cases are – that's where the risk is. So if people continue to minimise their travel to those places. If they do have to go when they return to Queensland with very, very, very few exemptions they will be required to go into hotel quarantine for 14 days.

Now the aged care facility that has been impacted through this cluster of cases that have come from Melbourne has been doing a fantastic job. They have 105 residents and 104 of them have been tested now and they are negative. But that's just the start. Those people now need to remain in quarantine for the next...continuing 14 days. One resident unfortunately could not be tested. We will continue to work with that resident, to make sure they are safe. This is really important. We know that people who live in aged care facilities are by far the most vulnerable people in our community which is why unfortunately, why I have asked all of the aged care facility in those impacted areas until we sort out what is happening, to minimise any movements in and out of that facility, to minimise visitors, to minimise staff movement between facilities. We know that a lot of aged care staff work across multiple facilities. We want to try and minimise that wherever possible. And then thirdly, I've asked all of those facilities to be very, very cautious and check their staff prior to the start of each shift. It is so important to keep those most vulnerable members of Queensland as safe as we can possibly keep them.

Hopefully we won't need to do this for long, so we had that great result. No new cases over the last 24 hours. The next week will really be telling, it's the next week that we have to be absolutely cautious. Thank-you.

**PREMIER:**

Do we have any questions for myself or Doctor Young?

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Probably that's better for Doctor Young if that's okay?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm not sure, whether that is just the resident didn't want to be tested or there was a problem there but it isn't an issue. We will just manage that resident even more cautiously and just check on them regularly to make sure they've not got any symptoms. And we will just work that through.

**REPORTER:**

Staff are still being tested...150 staff?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. The 150 staff, it takes a bit longer because not all of them have been on shift so we just need to get a hold of them and just test them.

**REPORTER:**

When do you expect that [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

It just depends on when we can get hold of the 150 of them. So the testing has well and truly started.

**REPORTER:**

And just in terms of the health checks on staff...how would that work [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

We've had that in place for quite a while now so it's a matter of just checking their temperature, asking if they got any symptoms, asking where they've been.

**REPORTER:**

Obviously all of those local government areas, six of them now residents can't leave [inaudible] how hard can that be for the families I guess, it must be frustrating?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's extremely hard for them and I do understand that. And as soon as we can lift those restrictions we will. But I am very, very concerned – these are the most vulnerable people of our Queensland community so we need to keep them as safe as we can possibly keep them.

**REPORTER:**

Woolworths and Bunnings are starting to strongly recommend people and staff to wear masks at some stores across Brisbane. How essential is that, does it help to stop the spread?

**DR YOUNG:**

If people wish to wear masks, of course they can but I don't think it's essential at this point in time. It's more important, far, far more important to maintain that social distancing. So when people go to supermarkets, my advice is, whether or not you needed, get one of those really big trolleys and just think, you need that trolley is a circle around you. Just maintain that distance and that will be far more safe than a mask because masks are not 100 per cent. Air seeps out, seeps in whereas that 1.5 metre distance, it does make it pretty safe. Not totally safe of course because you can still touch surfaces that someone has coughed onto which is why I say, wash your hands. My advice to people, a bit of hand sanitiser. They are in nice little containers. I always have some in my handbag, keep it in a pocket or handbag and use it. And we know a lot of the stores have just been fantastic, and they've got stations where you can use hand sanitizer so use it. I think that is far more protective than wearing masks. Masks are when you are at your end stage where you've got nothing else. Where you've tried everything else as we've seen in Victoria and you are still not getting on top of things. So then use masks. At this stage we've had five cases related to that cluster of girls who went down to Melbourne, and our other cases have been in quarantine. So we don't have widespread community transmission. We may have some – and that's why I need people to keep coming forward and getting tested.

**REPORTER:**

How astounded are you at this point though that those cases are so low when you look at some 13,000 tests. [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So, we've got to keep alert for at least the next week, before we can say we're out of that risky period. So have got another week that we have got to be so alert, another week of everybody maintaining social distancing and doing everything, as people have been doing so well since the start.

**REPORTER:**

Because you don't know really when they were infected in that eight days effectively...is that it?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, because we know the first two were infectious on that flight coming back into Queensland, and they were out and about after that. So they could have infected people, and those people might not have known they got infected and those people could have infected more people. So that is why it is really important that we are just extremely cautious for at least the next week. Hopefully not for longer, but the next week will give us that information.

**REPORTER:**

Have you been saying to people...[inaudible]...a lot of anxiety lining up for hours...do you still want anyone to come forward if they're anxious or [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

No, the people are that the people we really, really, really need to come forward are people with symptoms. If you do not have any symptoms at all and you feel absolutely well, then there is no need to get tested. But if you have got any symptom, it doesn't matter what the symptom is, or a fever, or a history of a fever, or if you don't know if you have got a symptom, that is when you come forward. So by that, I mean people have hay fever. Sometimes it is hard to know. Is this hay fever today that I have got, or is it COVID? Then come and get tested. Or people with asthma. We do know that there have been cases, not in Queensland but in other states, where people thought it was asthma so they didn't get themselves tested and it was COVID and they had already spread the infection to many people. So if you have a symptom and you think, look, it is probably my hay fever, that is the time to come and get tested. But if you are 100 per cent well, think about yourself, if you are feeling well and healthy and there is nothing there, then you don't need to get tested.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] what would be the message from you to reinforce that people really need to start keeping their distance again.

**DR YOUNG:**

People must. So you cannot have a trolley behind, but you can think about that distancing around you. So consider that. I was shopping out yesterday for my family and there was some fantastic messages over the intercom. I thought the manager did a brilliant job. I don't think he saw me sneak in, this is just what he did, and I thought he was brilliant. He was out there, and people listened. After the message came across, make sure you are socially distancing. I saw people immediately moving apart. Look everybody is really responding to this exceptionally well.

**REPORTER:**

There are reports this morning about elective surgeries across Metro South hospital services will be suspended – what exactly does that entail and will that involve cancelling elective surgery for Logan, the PA?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's something that they're all working through at the moment because of those very, very busy fever clinics we've all seen over the last few days, they have had to pull staff from all parts of the hospital. So I know that they're working very, very hard to minimise the numbers of cancellations that might be needed. But they are looking at whether they need to do that. They are also preparing – hopefully they won't need it – but they've got their plans in case we were to get more test results come through positive, more cases and have to stand up even more clinics. So they're just being ultra-cautious and doing the planning work.

**REPORTER:**

A man contacted us from Browns Plains said his cataract surgery on Monday morning was cancelled...so they are doing [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. They're having to of course because focus has got to be today, and for the next few days to test as many people as they believe might have the infection.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

They'll work that through depending on how many staff they're able to mobilise from other parts.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

That's a lot of aged care facilities all through southern Brisbane – a large number. Yes. A large number.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So all the aged care facilities have been notified so they are putting them in place so they'll just have the same process they had back in March. So this is exactly the same, they've done it before, they know exactly what they're doing, they've done a really good job. And most of the resident's relatives will also remember that time and will respond in the same way. So we'll try to make this period as short as we possible can because I know the disruption and the concern it's going to cause. But it's really and truly just being extremely cautious to protect those very, very vulnerable people.

**PREMIER:**

Just following on from what Doctor Young said too, I want all families to remain calm. This is a precaution. This is just to ensure over the next seven to 14 days that we have got all the measures in place to keep our most vulnerable safe. So the aged care facilities that are covered by this are in Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Redlands, Gold Coast and the Scenic Rim. So this is just a precaution and everyone should be calm. But this is to put the interests of our most vulnerable front and centre just during these coming weeks.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

It would be. I don't have the number on me but it's a lot, it's a precaution, and it's the right thing to do and I respect Doctor Young's advice to government on that, and that's why it's happening.

**REPORTER:**

Premier just around the economic impact [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Well at the moment...I'm very happy with the paid response that's happening in Queensland – it's extraordinary. When you think about what has been happening from a health perspective and a police perspective it is first rate. But, it is up to every single one of us to do the right thing and as Doctor Young said social distance. Practicing your social distancing here is a key here, especially over the next seven to 14 days. And that next seven days is very, very crucial.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I think from memory Treasury said if we were to end up in a second wave like Victoria it would be around four billion dollars – I can double check those figures for you – I'm just going from memory here – but that is why every single one of us has a big responsibility. And if you think about how this started with a couple of people going down to Victoria doing the wrong thing and look where it has put Queensland. So we're on top of it, we're working very hard but the next week is very, very critical so can I please just stress to all Queenslanders if you're sick get tested. Listen to Doctor Young here – she is giving Queenslanders the best possible medical advice and we all have to follow it and social distancing. And if people aren't doing the social distancing, if you're going into a shopping centre or if you're going into a supermarket. Leave. Come back at another time.

**REPORTER:**

Obviously some businesses have shut down [inaudible] what do you say to that?

**PREMIER:**

I will always take the best health advice to protect Queenslanders. That's what I will say. Everyone else out there can think they're an expert. But they're not. I will listen to Doctor Young.

**REPORTER:**

Premier can I ask about the border operation and police responses [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I don't have those figures on me but this is a cost that is 100 per cent worthwhile because it is keeping Queenslanders safe. And when I hear from our State Disaster Coordinator, the Deputy Commissioner that the borders are solid – the borders are solid. And that is exactly what Queenslanders wanted us to do, and that's what we are doing.

**REPORTER:**

Premier you've said before you lie awake at night where this is all heading...how astounded are you by the low number at this point of those cases related to the women. I mean, 13,000 tests...we were all expecting numbers in the hundreds.

**PREMIER:**

Yeah well we can't be complacent. This is the key thing – we can't be complacent. Like I said the next week is crucial so we need everybody to do the right thing and we'll get through this. And I know there's anxiety out there and people have concerns but if we're all doing the right thing we'll get through this together.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Minister Shannon Fentiman will talk a little more about that but let me say this – if anyone is doing the wrong thing here they will be found guilty of fraud. I mean it is absolutely unacceptable if people are thinking they can rot the system when we're trying to get people into work. Skills and training is so important to our economic recovery, and to see reports like that...I know that the Minister's department investigates any irregularity. But if there are organisations out there that are rotting the system, and if they're taking tax payers money and putting out the wrong messages we will clamp down really hard on them. Shannon, do you want to expand on that?

**MINISTER FENTIMAN:**

Thanks Premier. Of course the quality of our training system is critical and that's why my department takes any complaints like this incredible seriously. In the last 12 months 60 training organisations no longer receive government subsidies. We have a very strong skills assure program...for the first time in Queensland's history we proactively audit every training organisation that receives government subsidies. Now there's a lot of training fee for service providers that receive no government subsidies. If we get complaints about those training organisations we refer them to ASQA – the Federal Government has responsibility for the oversight of vocational education and training. I've spoken to the Training Ombudsman this morning, he's working closely with ASQA as the Premier said, if any training organisation gets Queensland tax payer funds is doing the wrong thing we will absolutely act. And there have been instances in the past where we have referred these matters to the police. But I will absolutely work with all the regulators to make sure that they are not taking Queensland Government tax payer funds and doing the wrong thing.



**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**MINISTER FENTIMAN:**

A lot of training providers have to re-pay government funds for those...there are allegations of fraud...they are referred to the Queensland Police, we do refer them to Fair Trading. We take action on these sort of complaints. We take them seriously because as the Premier said getting people skills and training right now to get them back into the labour market is something that is so important to this government as we try to fight for jobs for Queenslanders.

**REPORTER:**

Premier can I ask about universities and loans that have been offered...are they interest free or how will that process work?

**PREMIER:**

My understanding is it's \$150 million, they're loans and this is because we don't want our university sector failing. Of course the universities are primarily the responsibility of the Federal Government, but other states have stepped in and offered similar arrangements and I want to thank Minister Kate Jones for speaking with the Vice Chancellors about this. This is about keeping the workforce in place during COVID, and it's absolutely the right thing to do. Giving that assistance to our universities is desperately needed during this time.

**REPORTER:**

Premier just a clarification about the Jetstar flight...the individual...did he quarantine in Sydney first or...

**PREMIER:**

So, It's in Queensland. My understanding is he travelled from Sydney up to the Sunshine Coast as he came in internationally so they're going to look at that flight.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Internationally he flew into Sydney, then he flew from Sydney to the Sunshine Coast. Correct?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's correct.

**PREMIER:**

On a domestic flight. So that flight will be put out publicly and of course the contact tracing will happen immediately today.

**REPORTER:**

So the fact that you landed in Sydney but you've got a connection you can fly to your home state? Can you clarify that? [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

That was on Friday was my understanding.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**REPORTER:**

Premier the Federal Attorney-General warned on Friday that if the High Court challenge on WA's border position was unconstitutional it could have repercussions for other states [inaudible] Are you concerned about Clive Palmer's court challenge [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Queenslanders know how our tough border measures have kept Queenslanders safe, just as they have done in other states. I can not for the life of me understand why someone like Mr Palmer wants to put everything we have done at risk. Don't forget, Mr Palmer also had a challenge against us. I think it is very important that states are allowed to do what need to do in the best interests of their public and their families. And that is exactly what I have done, and that is exactly what Mark McGowan has done. I speak regularly to Mark McGowan, he wants to keep his community safe – I want to keep my community safe. And honestly, these legal challenges are ridiculous during this time. Everybody should respect that states have a job to do to protect their families, and not go through the courts and do these legal challenges putting everything at risk. Because that is what will happen – it will put all the hard work we have done at risk.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] allowing his own employees to move freely from between Queensland and WA. Do you think that's ridiculous that he's putting his own business interests ahead of the health [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I will always put the health of Queenslanders first. But as we have seen in Queensland we have been able to open up our economy because of the tough measures we have taken. I'll let Mark McGowan talk about Western Australia but I'm quite sure he'll say something very similar to what I've just said.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

There are some very, very small numbers of exemptions that have been agreed nationally, and one of those exemptions is consulate staff, so they are able to on-travel to their home and to quarantine in their home. It is a very select group of exemptions. So he did everything that he should of done and he was allowed to do. But it does mean this is a risk, it does mean we now have to contact trace those people who were on the flight with him.

**REPORTER:**

So it was a consulate staff member we can say that? And what was his age again?

**DR YOUNG:**

In his 20s.

**REPORTER:**

And did he feel sick or has tested while in quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

He tested when he arrived to Maroochydore so he was infectious on the flight.

**PREMIER:**

Thank-you.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DPC

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Deputy Premier Steven Miles and Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young, Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 3 August 2020

Duration: xx minutes xx seconds

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### *E&OE*

#### **PREMIER:**

In good news for Queensland overnight, there have been zero new cases. That's wonderful news, but as we say, this week is crucial, and we want people to come forward and get tested if they have any symptoms. We have 12 active cases, so that takes over total to 1085, and in the last 24 hours 7482 people have come forward to be tested. I can also confirm today that all 105 residents in the Bolton Clarke aged care home have been tested. I think yesterday we said one person had not been tested. The whole lot have been completed now, and they are negative, and I want to thank Doctor Young for meeting with the families of concerned residents yesterday. My information is that meeting went extremely well, and of course these measures are being put in place to protect our most vulnerable, so we will continue to monitor that situation over the week. In relation to the Sunshine Coast stadium, can I just address that issue? We've been contacted by the NRL this morning, and the Storm themselves are saying they want to reduce the number of people to that stadium by 1000. We want people to adhere to social distancing. That is incredibly important. Doctor Young will also address the fact that people are outside, and that's less risk than being inside, but of course we don't want to see large crowds gathering are not social distancing. The majority were seated, not moving around, but having said that I want to commend the NRL for taking that very swift action and letting my office know that they will be reducing the numbers by 1000. Of course, we want to see the competition continue. It's going from strength to strength, and I just want to thank everyone for doing the right thing. The final comment I want to make before handing over to the Deputy Premier is about overseas travellers. Of course, we had that situation the other day where the gentleman flew to Sydney and transferred on a flight to the Sunshine Coast. I'm going to raise this at National Ccabinet. I think now is the time for overseas travellers to definitely go into mandatory hotel quarantine. There have been some exemptions. I don't think the time is right now for those exemptions. However, that is going to be a matter for the Chief Health Officers around the country to look at, and I want to put that on the agenda for national cabinet to look at as well. I don't think we need any elements of risk at the moment when we are dealing with this global pandemic, and if we can close off any of those loopholes, it will keep everyone safe. My job is to keep Queenslanders safe. We've been doing a great job. We want to keep that going. We just want to maintain the lifestyle that we love here in Queensland. So, if everyone does their part, and that means

everyone is social distancing and washing their hands, and if they are sick staying at home and getting tested, we will get through this together. I will hand over to the Deputy Premier, and then Doctor Young.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thanks so much, Premier. This is exactly what I'd hoped for over the weekend. A large number of Queenslanders getting tested, and no community transmission. That leaves us with just 12 active cases of COVID-19 in Queensland. One of our active cases is now considered recovered. They were in the Metro North region. Seven remain in hospital. We've now tested nearly 510,000 Queenslanders, which is a great result. We are seeing a slight increase in the turnaround time for tests as a result of that large number of tests coming through, and we will be working today to address that. All contact tracing has progressed well over the weekend. There are now just 10 remaining contacts outstanding and our teams will continue to work to contact those people throughout the day. Finally, just to add to what the Premier had to say, the Storm have reached out overnight and this morning and indicated they want to work with us to address the concerns from the game yesterday afternoon. I was watching the game. I saw what people are concerned about, so we will work with them to ensure that social distancing can be maintained, even though, as the Chief Health Officer has outlined, the actual public health risks are not there anymore.

**DR YOUNG:**

No new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Queensland overnight, which is fantastic. Particularly when we see the very large numbers of Queenslanders who have come out to be tested. I commend every single one of them, because I know it takes time out of their day to do that, although we have managed those queues much better - it still takes a while to come forward and get tested. Then it's extremely important that those people remain at home and isolate themselves until they get a result. So thank you to every single one of those Queenslanders who have done that over the last few days. The next week remains critical. We know it's now eight days since those first two cases who went down to Melbourne and returned have been out in the community, but then we've had those subsequent three cases. So we could still expect to see some ongoing cases, so please, everyone needs to be very careful. If they develop any symptoms at all, to immediately come forward and get tested and isolate themselves until they get the result of that test, to maintain social distance as much as they possibly can, and everyone, please, reconsider whether you need to travel to Victoria or that hot spot in New South Wales - Metropolitan Sydney - or overseas. Those are all very high-risk environments that you could contract the infection and bring it back into Queensland. In Queensland we have 12 active cases today, which is a great place to be. But we know that one case, if it is out there and out and about in the community, could rapidly lead to a lot more cases, so it's time to be really vigilant. Now, I just want to comment about the football match that happened on the Sunshine Coast. I think people responded really well, but I think we need to go and review that, because it's hard to maintain social distancing when you are sitting on the ground, and I saw people who were trying to do that. They were on separate rugs for separate household groups. But we will have to have another look at that. The NRL and the venue managers have been fantastic and working with us, because everyone wants to make every encounter out there in Queensland as safe as it can possibly

be. So if everyone can also themselves think about how they can make themselves as safe as they can be, because ultimately we want our society to keep going as much as possible, we want our schools to remain open, we want our shopping centres to remain open, we want our sporting facilities - everything. So it's important that everyone does what they can to reduce the risk to themselves and their families. Again, I asked people, please, could you download the COVID-Safe app? It is a really simple thing to do. I did it right at the start, you then can ignore it, but it means that if you come into contact with someone who is positive, you can be told much more quickly that you've come into contact with that person. So, I think it is a really important thing for every single Queenslanders to do. If you could all do that today, that would help. At this point in time we have plenty of contact tracers so we can do that work. But we know that sometimes people have been in contact with someone and they won't know their name. This way, we'll be able to get that information and make sure that happens, and then I'd like to comment about that Bolton Clarke facility in Pinjarra Hills. They have done the most fantastic job, they were onto it before anyone contacted them because they were planning and planning, and they've had their plans in place back since February and they've enacted them all. So, even before they knew that they had a staff member who had tested positive, before they knew that, they'd already started working in their facility how they could minimise any risk. So then when they got the phone call they could immediately put it in place. And, I've asked all of our aged care facilities in the southern part of Queensland to think about what they can do, and they've all risen to the challenge, so that is really important. I do recognise the impact on the residents by not being able to have visitors, that is really, really hard. And as soon as we can remove that restriction, we will. But I am very, very concerned about all of the residents in our aged care facilities across Queensland because they are the most vulnerable group in our society, and they are the ones that we all have to protect the most. So it is very, very important we do this.

### **COMMISSIONER CARROLL:**

Good morning everyone. First of all I'd just once again like to thank the community for their patience, not only in the testing lines but also on the border in trying to get into our state with the incredible delays that we have had. But, I do want to comment on... Friday obviously was a difficult day going into Saturday with the lines coming back into Queensland at our borders, that improved dramatically on Saturday and yesterday it was a lot better again. So, constantly improving as the day goes on. We saw four people issued with notice to appear for offences for either unlawful entry to Queensland or making a false declaration in the last few days. A further three remain under investigation for these type of offences. And you will recall I commented on the fact that these people will not be issued infringement notices any longer, it will be a notice to appear. We are taking a very tough stance on this to ensure that these people appear before court if they actually make a false declaration on their border passes. We are also conducting a further blitz on people in home quarantine, and whilst we do auditing on this throughout the week, we will be doing 100 per cent compliance check in the next few days, and this is not just the normal auditing that we do, but also followed up with personal visits. We have seen in other areas that compliance has not been good in this area, I can say that Queenslanders have been exceptional throughout all of this and our compliance is actually excellent, but just to ensure that we are constantly doing the right thing a further blitz will be held on home quarantines. I just wanted to again make a comment in relation to what I have previously mentioned about community members making comments about

cultural groups and ethnicity. This has been playing out in social media, it is not productive, it is not fair, it is not Australian and it is not a Queenslander thing to do. We have been actively engaging with the African community to support them during this time, and please this behavior is counter-productive to social cohesion. And I will mention again that these groups – all groups – need to be coming together through this very, very difficult time. And if we do find people that are conducting offences because of this, we will be taking action against them. Once again we are assisting Queensland Health with those long queues, which have actually, the time has decreased dramatically, but in terms of patrolling those lines and conducting our traffic management plans around them as well. So, please be patient when you are getting testing at those clinics, as at the end of the day, it is a community safety issue. As always, social distancing, good hygiene, and please stay home if you are ill and get tested. Thank you.

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Morning everyone. So just to add some detail to what has already been discussed by the Commissioner and other people here this morning, we saw over the weekend that at our borders that since Friday 152 flights have come into Queensland that we've checked, that equates to 11,494 passengers physically checked and their bona-fides checked against their entry with their border declaration passes. 188 of those in the domestic airline have gone into quarantine. At our roads we've seen 17,710 vehicles intercepted, 208 people refused entry and 84 placed into quarantine. As the Commissioner indicated, things are improving as we hoped they would, in particular we are very pleased that on Thursday we've sent out 90,000 push notifications that held border declaration passes, that has absolutely assisted in terms of streamlining the process, so we're quite happy that that has worked well. With respect to the notices to appear, we have one person who came through in a truck that was located in Gympie that has been issued with a notice to appear and further aspects of that remain under investigation. The other three were three at Worongary, attempting to get into Queensland, they were given notices to appear for a variety of offences including false declaration, falsely stating name and drug offences and were turned around. And as the Commissioner, three remain under investigation. We issued one on the spot fine on the weekend for a breach of quarantine, and as the Commissioner indicated, we are doing 100 per cent audits of all people in quarantine – there are 380 across Queensland at this moment in home quarantine – that we will be checking in the coming period. Over the weekend, with respect to licensed premises, I think it is worthwhile mentioning that we checked across the state 906 licensed premises and only one formal warning was given. One particular venue in Brisbane took the proactive stance to close itself when patrons were not doing the right thing, which we find very encouraging and thank all the licensed premises for the work that they're doing. Overall the crowds were reasonable, as we've seen there are still issues sometimes with people in lines outside, that risk is much lower and the venues are doing their best to try and control that, but we will continue to work with them to see how we can improve that. So, overall I would say to the community realistically fantastic work so far, keep working with us on this, we're doing a great job of trying to keep this state safe right across the board, but it is not over so that social distancing is really important. Thank you.

### **REPORTER:**

Do you have some more details on that fine [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No, this is one that is probably an historical one that we've checked and in terms of our investigations found that this person had breached quarantine – it was on the Gold Coast – and they've been issued with a penalty infringement notice.

**REPORTER:**

Can I just ask – maybe Dr Young might be the one – did the Sunshine Coast stadium breach any crowd protocols? Did they have more people than they should have?

**DR YOUNG:**

They followed them all, but looking at it, because it's not a traditional seated stadium with proper seats in it, I think it's a bit harder to maintain that distance. So if you think, here in Brisbane you've got seats, and they're allowed to have up to 50 per cent because that means you can have the seat in front of you vacant and you're all facing the same way, I just think it's a bit harder when you've got rugs on the ground. So I think everyone did the right thing as far as I could see, but remember there were actually five Queensland Health staff there, so they know exactly what happened rather than the footage I got of looking at the crowds. So they'll work through just how to make it a bit safer, because that 50 per cent cap is better designed for where you've got formal seating, that you can actually say – because the problem here because of that hill it will be harder to contact trace people there because you can't say exactly where they were. But the venue did a great job. They divided the crowd into four different groups so that they could decrease the numbers in each group. So they did a good job.

**REPORTER:**

Given the numbers you were testing in the Logan-Acacia Ridge-Metro South area late last week, are you surprised there have been no cases from there or is it too soon?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm not surprised, I'm relieved. So we just have to wait and see. It is too early. The next week will be telling, before we can really be completely relieved.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, the Health Minister alluded to the fact that there's a bit of a backlog in test results. Can you explain what are the delays that are being seen, and is that just something that people are going to have to wear as a consequence of the big numbers that are getting tested?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is. It has increased – the turnaround time to get results has increased, and so we're going to do some work to see what we can do to reduce that.

**REPORTER:**

What sort of timeframes are we talking about – like three, four or five days?



**DR YOUNG:**

No, no. We're seeing up to 31 and then more recently 38 hours. So rather than the 17 hours we were seeing. So it has extended out which is why I thanked people earlier for their patience because they do need to stay at home until they get that negative result. But yes, we're working through to put some more resources in there to try and improve those turnaround times and bring them back to that 24-hour turnaround.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, and is the backlog in the testing capacity or is it in the communications side, of getting the result to the person?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, it's in the testing capacity, in our laboratories. So we've got testing throughout the state, so we're going to look at whether we can use more of that because of course today the pressure is on that Logan-south Brisbane area, not in the rest of the state to the same extent. So we're just seeing how we can work that through, and also we'll do more work with the private sector because the majority of people for this particular round of testing have actually been coming to the public sector, so people could, if they've got GPs, go through the private sector. There hasn't been the same degree of delays there because they haven't had the same numbers present to them.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, [inaudible] aged care facilities, do you have any idea [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. It depends on what happens in the next week. So it really depends how many cases we see over the next week.

**REPORTER:**

On the man who flew into Maroochydore and then I think he's quarantining in Toowoomba, have we had any more people from that flight get tested, or do we have any numbers of that?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't have the numbers from this morning, but we were trying to contact 14 people who were on that flight.

**REPORTER:**

And he's quarantining in Toowoomba, so there's no...

**DR YOUNG:**

He's isolating because he's a confirmed case. His wife is quarantining with him.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, on that, you mentioned that this is something you'll be taking to National Cabinet...

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, and Dr Young is going to raise it with the Chief Health Officers today at her meeting.

**REPORTER:**

What is the issue of concern there? Like, what is the loophole, the point of concern, that most worries you?

**PREMIER:**

Well I think what we're seeing is more cases are happening right across the globe so there's a higher risk of return travellers coming back into Queensland, and we just want to look at those exemptions. So this person worked overseas in an embassy so he was being granted an exemption, so maybe now is not the time to have those exemptions, as the number of cases are increasing.

**REPORTER:**

Graham Turner is calling for opening everything up and just live with the virus, do you think he might have an interest in that?

**PREMIER:**

Well that is reckless. That is simply reckless. That would put all the good work of Queenslanders at risk, and that is something that Queenslanders definitely don't want. I can assure you they do not want that. I have been out in the length and breadth of Queensland, and Queenslanders are very happy with the way things are going at the moment. They do not want a mass opening of everything. You would have seen what would have happened to Queensland if they had happened.

**REPORTER:**

Do you think LNP can move on from their presidency problems tonight when they select a new one?

**PREMIER:**

That's a matter for them. Obviously they're focused on themselves.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey today is showing very low levels of optimism. Is there anything else the State can offer small business?

**PREMIER:**

I think when you look at what Queensland has done for small business, our Government has been front and centre of making sure that small businesses can get on with the job, with the payroll tax we looked at, we've also got our Back to Work for regional Queensland to help small businesses, Skilling Queenslanders for Work – there's a whole lot of measures there. But I think Queenslanders can have confidence that our economy has opened up when you contrast that with what can happen when you have a virus outbreak. So our approach has

always been measured and responsible, but it's about allowing Queenslanders to function within Queensland, to make our economy function within this state. And, you know, I think the big strengths of the Queensland economy have been not just mining and agriculture but also our small business. And we know that shutdown really hurt businesses, but now that we have opened up Queensland for Queenslanders, the public are out there in droves supporting people, which is great to see.

**REPORTER:**

With the AFL grand final looking increasingly unlikely to be held in Melbourne, do you have an update on whether, I guess, what are Queensland's chances?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah look, and that's a really good question. And look, at the moment, I don't think we should be discussing the grand final. I know how much the grand final means to Victorians. I know how much Victoria is hurting at the moment, I think all of our thoughts are with Victorians at the moment, and at the moment we are focused on the competition, and at some stage down the track there are discussions, we'll be happy to be a part of those discussions. But they are premature at this stage. I think let's get on with the competition, and let's discuss it at an appropriate time.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, given where we were with cases just a few days ago, are you feeling more relieved?

**PREMIER:**

Look I don't think anyone can be relieved because we always have to be on our guard. And as Dr Young said, this week is crucial, so we'll be monitoring everything over the coming week. But it is good news that today we've had zero cases, but like Dr Young said, that could change over the coming days. So it's up to everyone now. Everyone's got to do the right thing.

**REPORTER:**

Just on the consular employee, why does it need to be discussed at National Cabinet? Do you not have the power to just say...

**PREMIER:**

I'm not in charge of the embassies, that's the Federal Government.

**REPORTER:**

Understanding that, but in terms of the conditions in which people enter the state, you can't just...

**PREMIER:**

No, no, because they're coming back from overseas, so they would have a Commonwealth exemption. Yep. So look, we're happy to have these discussions and hopefully we can put it on the agenda.

**REPORTER:**

And so is there some national agreement that [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Correct. Yeah, but the National Cabinet has worked very well together and where issues have arisen, everyone has, in the spirit of cooperation, looked at these issues. So Dr Young is going to be raising it today at the meeting of Chief Health Officers from across the nation, and it'll be nice if we could have discussion about it on Friday.

**REPORTER:**

Just on small business, would the Government consider another round of grants [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Oh, glad you reminded me about that. So yeah, we of course made available up to \$10,000 dollars to small businesses across Queensland, in total \$200 million dollars. My understanding is that second round we made sure that 50 per cent was to regional Queensland, 50 per cent to south east Queensland, and happy to find where that's up to you for you, Jack. Okay.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DPP

Engagement: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier  
Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer  
Steve Gollschewski, Deputy Commissioner

Date: 4 August 2020

Duration: 25mins 38sec

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

In good news overnight, zero new cases, so well done Queensland and we are still seeing record numbers of people getting tested. The number of tests conducted in the last 24 hours has been 11,894 and of course we still want people to practice their social distancing, and if you're sick, stay at home and get tested, it is absolutely important. We still have 12 active cases and our total confirmed cases stays at 1085, so we still have to make sure that we're vigilant and make sure that we're doing everything we can to stop any spread of COVID. The Deputy Commissioner will talk about three men who were intercepted crossing the border illegally from Victoria. They arrived in Queensland on August the 2<sup>nd</sup> and they came up from Victoria, so they passed through the Victoria New South Wales border, they came into Queensland and they are currently in quarantine and they are in the process of getting tested. So, we don't people to do this, it is not right, people are obviously lying on their declaration forms and it is undermining all of the great work that Queenslanders have done. So, I will let the Deputy Commissioner talk more about that. Can I just mention the issue that has been raised about the man who was working overseas who came in and flew from Sydney up to Maroochydore. Can I say this, there is a loophole here and it needs to be closed. I will be raising this at National Cabinet, there have been some reports going around, I have now asked... these documents have all been forwarded to the Police Commissioner to investigate. Our understanding is that a letter was provided on DFAT letterhead and there was an exemption that was also granted. So, this will be fully investigated but there is still a loophole that needs to be fixed and I will absolutely raise this at National Cabinet in Friday because we are in a really serious situation here, I think anyone can see what is happening in Victoria, and the outbreaks that are happening in New South Wales. We don't want to see that happening in Queensland, that is why we're on our guard and we are doing everything we can to stop that happening here. So look, I will hand over to the Deputy Premier, then Dr Young, and then of course our State Disaster Coordinator.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER**

So of those 12 remaining active cases, seven are in hospital. In the last 24 hour testing period, we tested nearly 10,000 Queenslanders. 9910 Queenslanders, which is a fantastic result, thank you to all of them, and also to our pathology staff who do continue to work around the clock. 86 tests from the staff at the Bolton Clarke Pinjarra Hills nursing care facility, nursing home facility, have now been returned and all 86 are negative. We have seven contacts still to be traced and attempts have been made to contact all of those. Just further to the comments the Premier made regarding the statement last night from DFAT. I wanted to express my support for the decisions made by the Chief Health Officer, they are on the basis of those national decisions that had been made, and on the basis of evidence presented to her: a letter from DFAT, a diplomatic passport issued by DFAT, clearly those things will now be investigated but we can put that matter, beyond any doubt, by closing the loophole as the Premier says, removing that exemption, I am sure that those who serve our country overseas will be very willing to do the right thing, all we're asking is for them to do into 14 days hotel quarantine at their port of arrival and I am sure other states will support the Premier at National Cabinet in that call.

**DR YOUNG:**

So no new cases overnight, which is fantastic news. We've still got another six days to go before we can feel that we've safely got through that latest cluster of cases. And we also have some more individuals who've just made it across the border who we're testing and getting those results on so we all have to remain alert for the next six days, but then ongoing after that. It is really, really important that every Queenslanders continue, if they become sick, to stay at home and immediately get tested, to maintain that very, very important social distancing and wash their hands regularly and also to not go to places where we know there are a lot of cases. So today, that means not going to New South Wales, particularly to Sydney, not going to anywhere in Victoria, and not travelling overseas, unless there is absolutely no other option. And people who do go to those places I know it is a big impost, but you will be asked to go into hotel quarantine when you return with very, very few exemptions. Thank you.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. Can I just start with some statistics about what's happened in the last day or so, and also since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. We've had over 1.3 million border declaration passes issued. In the last 24 hours, we've seen 84 flights come into Queensland that we've checked. That's included 3791 passengers that have been individually checked. 23 have been refused entry and 173 have been put into quarantine. At our roads, 5592 vehicles have been intercepted in the last 24 hours. 70 persons refused entry and 23 placed into quarantine. In the last week, we've issued, regrettably, ten notices to appear for people giving false declarations at our borders and other offences. That includes three young men who arrived into Queensland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, entered into Queensland through...via the road at Coolangatta. Had a G-pass which is a pass which declared that they had not been in a hot spot when in fact they had been in Melbourne and coming out of Victoria. So they've managed to come all that way through the Victoria-New South Wales border and then across our border into Queensland. One of those persons has been tested. I understand yesterday and in that testing process has disclosed that they have been exposed to people from Melbourne. Upon our investigation, we

discovered that the three of them, who all live in the Logan area, had been into Melbourne. They have now been taken into quarantine and are currently in hotel guarded quarantine here in Brisbane. They have been tested and we await results for that. All three have been issued with notices to appear with false declarations and there are ongoing investigations in relation to that matter. We've also seen another on-the-spot issued in southern region which is around our Goondiwindi area, for a person doing a false declaration.

It's really, really disappointing that, given where Victoria is at the moment - and we all know what's happening there - that people in our community are still telling lies and deliberately trying to mislead the system so they can get back into our state. The fact that they have been in Victoria is something of grave concern to all of our community. What we really need people to do is to disclose that. The worst that can happen is they have to go into quarantine for 14 days. They don't get imprisoned. They don't get fined with anything. But what they're doing, by telling lies deliberately, is having themselves charged with criminal offences and now having to front court down the track and answer for their actions in a court of law. That, to me, seems unacceptable behaviour. What I can say to you is we will continue to take that very strong line on people who deliberately deceive the system in trying to get into the state by not declaring they've been in a hot spot. And it is with great...as I say, it's very regrettable that in the last week, we've seen ten persons issued with such notices and there is another four under investigation at this moment. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

The Victoria-New South Wales border, I understood, was a hard border – how did they even get into New South Wales?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Well, I can't answer for what's happened at that border. Lane, obviously we're doing our investigations in collaboration with both our colleagues from Victoria and New South Wales. We're still unpacking this. This has only happened in the last few days so the investigation is still ongoing. We'll definitely look at that. We'll definitely talk to both sets of authorities around how that might have occurred and find out where the system needs to be addressed. But I think any system in the world - including our international borders in normal times - that people who criminally deceive their way through, it's a problem for us.

**REPORTER:**

One of them's displaying symptoms and is getting testing and waiting on results, is that right? And where did they go in Logan? Have they been out and about?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Queensland Health are very, very good at rapid response. That's in play at the moment. Those persons, their backgrounds and that, will be done. We've got to wait for the outcome of the tests of course. I'll leave that to Jeanette.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No, no. They were intercepted after they've come back into Queensland, in Brisbane. As a result of the testing, that's what set the alarm.

**REPORTER:**

So he went and got tested?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Do we know how long they in, sorry after they crossed....

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

They came in on Sunday. So this all happened yesterday, that it came to our attention.

**REPORTER:**

Can the CHO elaborate on Logan locations that you're looking at like restaurants?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. The first thing - I need the result. I need to know if they're positive or not. That's the very first thing. But already we've got people aware in Logan that this is a high-risk situation because of the other three who went down to Melbourne, so it hasn't changed anything for Logan. People just need to if they're unwell, to immediately come forward and get tested. So we've already put all the restrictions on the aged care facility. There isn't any more we need to do, just that people need to make sure, if they're unwell, to get tested.

**REPORTER:**

When are you expecting the test results?

**DR YOUNG:**

Later today.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, is there any kind of roadmap that you might have in mind of when the aged care facilities will reopen [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

It will depend what happens over the next week, over the next six days, as I said yesterday. We'll have to see what other cases we get. If there's any sign of any community transmission then, unfortunately, those aged care facilities will have to remain closed to visitors.

**REPORTER:**

So [inaudible] seven days from now you might be able to reopen?



**DR YOUNG:**

Exactly. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, you spoke about the DFAT letter, [inaudible].....is it the New South Wales Government? [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Well my understanding is that the gentleman came into Sydney, had the DFAT letter but had an exemption from New South Wales. I'm happy to clarify that for you but my understanding was that it was a New South Wales exemption to leave Sydney to travel to Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, has it been suggested that this individual was a security contractor who happened to have a diplomatic passport by virtue of his work? I'm really unclear who this individual actually is.

**PREMIER:**

I think those questions are better put to the Federal Government but what I can say is that I understand that there was a letter that was provided on DFAT letterhead. That letter plus the letter from New South Wales which granted the exemption has now all gone to the Queensland Police.

**REPORTER:**

Is there a suggestion that that DFAT letter is false?

**PREMIER:**

Well, others are saying that. We need it investigated and I think...I've asked my department to be talking to DFAT to clarify this but, look I think we are now in the situation where these loopholes have to be closed. And I don't think it, as the Deputy Premier said too, it's not too much to be asking people who are returning from overseas to do the mandatory quarantine. There's a lot of virus happening overseas. Everyone can see what's happening around the rest of the world. And this is about keeping Australians safe, keeping Queenslanders safe. So, if we can fix a loophole and see if it can be done. Let's try and keep everyone safe. That's all I'm trying to do here is to keep people safe.

**REPORTER:**

That's not the question though – is it a loophole or is it a suggestion of fraud?

**PREMIER:**

Well that's why it's been forwarded to the police. If there is any suggestion that it is not an authentic letter, then that needs to be investigated by the police.

**REPORTER:**

Do you want exemptions [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

I think it should apply to everyone.

**REPORTER:**

Premier [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Look, we're always happy to look at that and as the Deputy Commissioner said, the majority of people are doing the right thing. So the majority of people are definitely doing the right thing. It is the small minority that is putting all of Queensland's great work, Queenslanders great work at risk. And that's what our concern is. It's a big concern. You've seen the impact that the three women had and now we've got a question mark over the three men.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I fully support the measures that were put in place that were announced yesterday for what's happening in Victoria, and if a situation occurred like is happening in Victoria in any other state or territory I think there would be a very solid case to expand that as well. The last thing we want is people who are sick going to work. And it's a big issue out there in the community – people have got to feed their families, they've got to pay rents, and a lot of Queenslanders and Australians have a very strong work ethic as well. So there is that... in the past everyone went to work with a flu or a cold, but now you can't. The days have completely changed. So can I just urge all Queenslanders again, if you are sick please stay at home and get tested.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I think we... that has to be... I'm going to leave that with the Chief Health Officer, but there are sometimes extenuating circumstances. But, you know, I think exemptions need to be closed as much as possible because we've got to keep our community safe. It is very tough. There's a lot of people at the moment that can't go and see their loved ones overseas who may have family overseas. It is very tough times. So we'll have to go very carefully and they'll take the advice of our Chief Health Officer on that, and I'm quite sure that that'll be discussed nationally as well.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, [inaudible] security guards [inaudible] did he quarantine in Sydney for two days [inaudible] fly [inaudible] Queensland [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

My understanding is that there was an exemption granted by New South Wales. We're happy to look at all of those matters. But how about we all work together and fix the loopholes and keep Australians safe. I mean, this blame game has been going on for too long in every single situation, whether it's

about borders, whether it's about pandemic leave, whether it's about exemptions. How about everyone just work together and stop picking fights and work together in the best interests of our citizens.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yeah, so New South Wales gave an exemption – they had to because the nationally agreed protocol is that everyone will quarantine for 14 days at the port of arrival. So New South Wales gave an exemption to that because of that nationally agreed protocol, so he then flew into Queensland and I gave him an exemption to quarantine at home because of that national agreement.

**REPORTER:**

After he arrived or [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, before he came into Australia. So all this was done before he left Kabul.

**REPORTER:**

Could he have spent days in quarantine in Sydney?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't think so, but I'll double check that. But I don't believe so.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. I also want people to quarantine at their port of arrival. I don't think we should allow people to get onto a domestic flight and fly interstate because we've got 14 people we are trying to contact who are on that plane. Two of those people have no contact details. The airline cannot tell me how I can get hold of those two people because there is no requirement for domestic planes to keep contact details. There is a requirement for international, and we know all of those people, we can contact them all, but for domestic, we are struggling today to find two of those 14 people. So that's why they should quarantine at the port of arrival.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, absolutely. Of course it should be. I have pushed for it, yes, and I will continue to push for it. But until that can absolutely guaranteed as rock solid as for international flights, I think the only outcome is people must quarantine where they arrive into Australia.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] you said you approved the exemption before [inaudible]...

**DR YOUNG:**

Yep.

**REPORTER:**

Did you receive notice from the New South Wales Government?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. Yep. So I have a letter from the Embassy in Kabul, I have information from the individual and I have information from New South Wales granting the exemption. So I have those three documents, which now are with police for them to work through.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] do you think it is safe to grant people exemptions [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't give very many. The ones are people with spinal injuries who are paraplegic and they need a carer. So my first response is, could that person quarantine with the person in the hotel, and we're working that through so we can get larger rooms. So wherever possible, the default is that people do quarantine in a hotel. But sometimes it just isn't possible. So but there are very, very, very few.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

That's really the Commonwealth because, you know, planes fly across borders. So it really does need to be the Commonwealth who's got to put a requirement in to ask our domestic airlines to please assist.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

We've been asking for quite a while.

**PREMIER:**

Okay. Thanks everyone. Thank you.

[ENDS]

Engagement: Press conference

Speaker/s: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 5 August 2020

Duration: 31 minutes 48 seconds

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

Okay, so today we have one new case. That new case is currently under investigation. It's a 68-year-old woman in the West Moreton area, and as we get more details during the day, we'll update Queenslanders during the day about that case. We also have two historic cases. So our active cases in Queensland remains at 11. And we have told confirmed cases – 1,088. I really want to thank Queenslanders who have come out and been tested. Over the last 24 hours we've done 13,715 tests. So well done. And of course, if anyone's got any symptoms, please come out and get tested.

Well, as we know, there have been a large number of active cases in Victoria, and we are continuing to see cases in New South Wales. This is a very concerning situation. It's a very concerning situation that we are seeing – the lockdown happening in Victoria, and the huge impact that that is having on the economy. And our hearts go out to Victoria. We know they'll get through this together, and we will continue to monitor what's happening down there. But the impacts on the economy are really large. We've seen construction reduced down to 25 per cent. We've seen impacts on retail. We've seen impacts on the way people live their lifestyle and the shutdown of cafes and restaurants. And of course, in New South Wales, we are continuing to see cases happen each day, and this is of great concern to Queensland.

I can confirm that yesterday members of the Queensland Disaster Management Group met extensively and we have also met extensively again this morning. I can now confirm that our Chief Health Officer is declaring New South Wales and the ACT a hotspot. This will take immediate effect from Saturday, 1:00am. And this is the right thing to do. I know it's going to be tough on Queenslanders. But your health comes first. Your health comes first. We need to protect not only our health, we need to protect the families, we need to protect our economy. We've seen what's happened in Victoria. We don't want to see that happening here. Businesses have said to me, loudly and clearly, that they do not want to go backwards. They want to stay where they are. And we need Queenslanders supporting Queenslanders.

It's also very important that Queenslanders stay in Queensland. Now is not the time to travel to New South Wales. Now is not the time to travel to Victoria. And I will not risk the safety of Queenslanders, and I will not risk our economy. We have seen that Victoria is not getting better, and we're not going to wait for New South Wales to get worse. We need to act, and we have taken the decisive decision to act. I said I will not hesitate, and today is the day. Today

is the day that I say to Queenslanders, "We have listened to you. We are concerned about what is happening in the southern states. And today is the day that we say we are putting Queenslanders first."

I want to thank Dr Young for her extensive work that she has been doing in keeping our state healthy and keeping our state safe. But as we have seen, these continuous breaches that have happened by Queenslanders going down to Victoria, by Victorians coming up through the New South Wales border, and into Queensland – it's putting our Queensland at risk. And we have to do everything we possibly can to stop that. So these tough... this tough border measure, this tough border measure against New South Wales – and we have to include ACT because, as the Deputy Commissioner will give an example of someone from New South Wales who went through Canberra into Queensland – is putting everything we have in Queensland at risk. We cannot risk a second wave. We have to act decisively and today we have acted quickly. We have put Queenslanders first. I'll hand over to the Deputy Premier, then Dr Young, and then our Deputy Commissioner and we're happy to take questions.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you, Premier. That additional case in West Moreton means our number of active cases remains 11, five of those are in hospital. Here in Queensland, we went 63 days with no community transmission, more than two months with no community transmission, but that all changed seven days ago. A lot can change in a week, and we've seen in other states how it only... It can only take one case to see a widespread outbreak. In that week, we've had nine cases here in Queensland. Two travellers from Victoria, three cases of local transmission, two Queenslanders who travelled to Sydney, and one returning Queenslanders via Sydney, as well as that one case today and we don't yet know the source of their infection. Those cases have placed an enormous burden on our health system. We've done 85,000 tests in that week – 84,795 tests. We've contact traced thousands of Queenslanders. Many are now in quarantine.

We have seen people go to great lengths to avoid our border lockdown. People have been dishonest, people trying to deceive our police, people lying on their border passes, and not just in the border but around the state, in Cairns, Townsville, Gympie, Nanango. In fact, police have now served more than a dozen notices to appear in court. Over that week, also, Victoria has declared a state of emergency, masks are now mandatory, there's a curfew in the city. New South Wales is on high alert and we've seen cases there creeping north of the city. It is clear now that Australia is experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 and we cannot afford to have that second wave here in Queensland. There is also intelligence to suggest that some people are flying via the ACT in order to avoid our hotspots lockdown. Here in Queensland, our economy has just started getting back on its feet. Our plan to unite and recover and get people back into jobs is just starting to work. We've eased restrictions. Businesses are open again. People are back at work. We cannot afford to risk that progress. We cannot afford to risk the opportunity to unite and recover. Throughout this entire pandemic our Premier has stood strong. She has listened, she has listened to the health advice, she has listened to Queenslanders, and that is precisely what we are doing today.

These steps... well there'll be some critics. It might be the LNP. It might be Clive Palmer. But we are doing the right thing to keep Queenslanders safe. Border restrictions have proven to be one of the most effective tools at stopping COVID-19 from coming into our state, and

that's why today we are closing the border to New South Wales. All of New South Wales and the ACT will be declared a hotspot – this is a hard closure. The road border between Queensland and New South Wales will be closed to all but a very limited number exemptions, freight and those who live in border communities. This will come into effect at 1am Saturday, so if you are a Queenslander in New South Wales, please come home. If you are a Queenslander who has any travel plans to travel to New South Wales, please change those plans now. Anyone else travelling to Queensland and allowed to continue to Queensland will have to travel by air or via the Northern Territory border, they will not be able to travel into Queensland via the Queensland-New South Wales border and police will be enforcing that. We will also be strengthening the application process for border passes to ensure that people have to provide photographic identification.

This is all about keeping Queenslanders safe and catching anyone who tries to lie to get into our state. With the nation's second biggest economy closed, with our biggest state economy on the brink, we need to keep the Queensland economy going for Queenslanders, but also in the national interest and that is why I would urge the Prime Minister to support these steps and I would also urge Clive Palmer to drop his dangerous and reckless case against state border closures. They are incredibly important. These steps, these measures will be reviewed at the end of the month, they will cause some inconvenience but that inconvenience is nothing compared to what people are experiencing right now in Victoria, nothing compared to the inconvenience of having to go back to state one restrictions. So I would urge all Queenslanders to stay safe, to get tested if they are sick, to wash their hands, to keep their distance, together we will get through this.

**DR YOUNG:**

One new case of COVID-19 was confirmed overnight in Queensland and two historical cases. The new case is a lady who lives in the Ipswich area, she is 68 years old and we are just following through with her this morning to urgently find out how she's acquired the case. Now it is very important that people continue to do what they've been doing. So 85,000 Queenslanders have got tested for COVID-19 over the last week, which is a brilliant result and I recognise the impost on each and every single one of those people, because they need to then after they've been tested wait in their home in isolation until they get the result and it is really, really important that they do that. And they have been doing that. So the three things that I implore every single Queenslander to do; the first one is if they're unwell to isolate themselves at home and get tested as soon as possible. The second is to maintain social distancing, we don't know where we might get another case in Queensland and it is too late then to socially distance, so maintain social distancing and wash your hands. And the third is reconsider your need to travel to anywhere in New South Wales, ACT, Victoria or overseas, and if you do need to travel it is an absolute travel, it is an absolute urgent requirement that you need to travel, then when you come back, you will with very, very few exemptions be going into hotel quarantine for 14 days. And as of 1am on Saturday morning, you won't be able to fly into Queensland unless you are bringing freight, so commercial freight, or you live in one of the border communities, or you live across the Northern Territory border and you are coming though that border. So as of 1am Saturday, Queenslanders returning home will need to fly home to Queensland, and if they have cars, organise alternative arrangements. Thank you.

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So in the last day we've seen 53 flights come into Queensland, 2232 passengers have been processed. 126 placed into quarantine. None of them were refused entry. At our roads, 5614 vehicles have been intercepted, 77 persons still are refused entry into Queensland and 31 placed in quarantine. On that issue of still refusing people coming into Queensland, can I highlight a couple of investigations that have progressed yesterday. You would've no doubt heard that two persons in their 60s at Nanango were found to have falsely declared on their border declaration passes. They have been issued with notices to appear for false declaration. Can I highlight to the community that these are very serious offences? They carry, as an on-the-spot fine a \$4000 dollar fine and a much more significant penalty in a court of law, but more particularly also carry 18 months imprisonment as a potential penalty, so very serious offences indeed. Disappointingly for us, we are currently investigating a male person who we will allege, when they appear in court, has deliberately driven from Sydney, out of a hotspot, into the ACT to get a flight to come to Brisbane and then connected into Cairns, and that person has expressed they were frustrated with the restrictions, didn't like them and wanted to go to work, so a quite selfish approach to how this is doing. That person also will be facing charges.

That highlights that this type of this happening as people are trying to get across our borders. And whilst our system is working quite well, we recognise that we cannot keep this up with the types of numbers that are coming, given the risks that we have to our community, so the announcement this morning will allow us, as we go forward, to really focus on everyone coming into this state. So unless people have either an exemption or a pass for freight, or as a cross-border resident, and there will be a very particular process they have to go through for their border declaration pass which is currently being developed, verifying their identity and also a specialist exemption as the Chief Health Officer has alluded to and unless they have them, they will be 100 per cent stopped. So everyone will be 100 per cent audited at both our road borders and our air borders as of Saturday. There will be no way to get through unless you have those exemptions, and indeed all those other persons that have the passes will still be checked. There'll be still random checks done on those as well. So we're committed to making sure that the state remains safe and that we keep COVID out of this. The messaging, as you heard, is very clear – the borders are a very important part of our defences in the state. They're not the complete defence. So of course need to make sure our social distancing and hygiene and not going to work is all observed because if anyone does get through and they're carrying the virus, we need to be able to stop it spreading. Thank you.

### **REPORTER:**

Are you saying that you can't keep this up? Is it too confusing, too cumbersome, the whole different local government areas?

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No. The numbers of people that are coming through at the moment, what's concerning us... the vast majority of people are doing the right thing, vast majority. There are clearly a small percentage who are doing the wrong thing and deliberately deceiving the system to try and get through, for their own purposes. What we've seen already in one instance is some of



those were positive for COVID and infected with COVID. Whilst those numbers are small, the risks are too high.

**REPORTER:**

It's probably easier now, if you've just...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

We anticipate that it'll be a much stronger compliance regime, so it'll allow us, with refusing entry to all of those that can't come out of the hotspots of Victoria, ACT and New South Wales, that we'll be able to do a higher percentage of auditing of those that are allowed through. So more people will be intercepted and more freight will be intercepted, more cross border checks for those that are coming out of cross border areas. But in particular, the message to all those other people who don't qualify for those exemptions, don't come. You won't be allowed in.

**REPORTER:**

Just to clarify, if I am a Queenslander coming back on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, I can still drive across the border, but going into quarantine?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

You'll be going into 14 days of self-paid quarantine. Can I just say also to the community, thank you. So in the last week what we've seen is an increase in reports to the police around concerns about people who are doing the wrong thing. Now that has led to a number of the investigations I've spoken to. So clearly the community has had enough of this because we're starting to see those reports come in.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, this seems extreme given the numbers in New South Wales are relatively small. They're nowhere near the Victorian numbers, and they seem to be fairly well contained to those hotspots or clusters. Is this just going too far?

**PREMIER:**

Definitely not. We don't want to see a second wave in Queensland. We've seen how catastrophic it is to the Victorian economy. We are seeing New South Wales on edge. The Premier herself in New South Wales says she is on high alert. They're encouraging people to wear masks in public places. My job is to protect Queenslanders' health and to protect our economy and lifestyle. We've seen in Victoria, there are 6076 current active cases. In New South Wales there are 255 current active cases. And New South Wales has reported 110 positive cases in the last seven days. We have seen people deliberately flouting the law to get entry into Queensland. We have seen Queenslanders go into New South Wales at the Apollo restaurant and come back positive with COVID. We cannot put Queenslanders at risk. It is too important. You only have to look at the images that we are seeing down in Victoria in the aged care homes where they now have more active cases in aged care than we have in total that we've had in Queensland over the last six months. This is the right decision for Queenslanders. It is a hard border closure with New South Wales, with Victoria and the ACT.

**REPORTER:**

What about those businesses on the Gold Coast who have been screaming out?

**PREMIER:**

It's going to be tough. It is going to be tough for some of our small businesses in some of those communities. So now today I'm asking Queenslanders to get out there and continue to support Queenslanders. But what would be more catastrophic is to take Queensland backwards, is to actually have to be shutting the Gold Coast because there's an outbreak of someone who has deliberately deceived their border pass, come into the Gold Coast, and then we have a second wave. That would be even more catastrophic. This is about protecting our economy and protecting Queenslanders' health.

**REPORTER:**

Was it an error opening in the first place?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

Why?

**PREMIER:**

No, because we... I always listened to the health advice, and it is exactly what I've done today.

**REPORTER:**

You were attacking Deb Frecklington [inaudible].

**PREMIER:**

No, not at all. Not at all. I always take the health advice, and Queenslanders can be rest assured that myself and the Deputy Premier always listen to our Chief Health Officer. And we've also had our management committee meeting where we have met with the Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner about these continual breaches of our borders. So the breaches will now stop.

**REPORTER:**

How does politics play into it so close to the election?

**PREMIER:**

This is about people's health, Patrick. There are people dying. This is a life and death situation here. Everyone is serious about this. I have travelled across Queensland and people are continuously raising with me about the strong actions we are taking to protect their family's health. Look what's happening in Victoria, people can't even see their loved ones who are dying in nursing homes. We are seeing an economy down there which is going to

have a huge impact with the Australian economy. I need to maintain our strong economy here in Queensland – our agriculture, our mining, our small business needs to function. We need to be supplying Victoria with food into the future. Like, I mean, it is too important. If we see the collapse of the New South Wales economy, we can't afford the collapse of the Queensland economy.

**REPORTER:**

Have you got any support for tourism operators? I know Whitsundays are calling for more support, Gold Coast as well – will you look at any sort of support [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, I was actually up at... That's a good question. I was actually up in the Whitsundays just recently, and I was at Airlie Beach and the hotel told me that the majority of people that were staying in their hotel were from regional Queensland and from Brisbane. I deliberately asked the question, were there people from other states. Now, this is going to be tough for a few months. But everyone, we are in a world pandemic. I mean you only have to listen to the World Health Organisation – it is getting worse. It is not getting better. They are saying very clear that every jurisdiction needs to protect its community and that's exactly what I'm doing.

**REPORTER:**

How will it work in the border communities? Will it be similar to what it was last time?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so there's going to be a specific border community pass. There will be limited exemptions, but photographic ID will have to be shown. I tried very hard to keep those communities safe but unfortunately the New South Wales Premier wasn't up to listening and up to making it smoother for those communities. So we know that there are emergency services personnel that work in those border communities and vice-versa and of course, school students and business. We will work with them to make sure that they have those exemptions.

**REPORTER:**

You can still cross for health care and going to work?

**PREMIER:**

Yes. Yes, yes, of course. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Last night you released a statement Premier that said you've changed the rules around allowing diplomatic and consular staff....

**PREMIER:**

Yes. Through a health direction.

**REPORTER:**

What changed? Because on Monday you didn't believe you had those powers.

**PREMIER:**

So conversations happened with the Federal Government and it was conveyed to us that we had the power in Queensland to put in place that exemption and that's what the Chief Health Officer did.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, do you think Schoolies should go ahead this year?

**PREMIER:**

Oh Patrick, look...it's a fair way off but...we can't have mass gatherings. We need to be very careful. I do want to get some advice on that. I'll be talking to Dr Young. I mean, everything's hard for everyone at the moment. Things are changing constantly, and Schoolies may look a different...may look in some different form. It might be smaller gatherings. I'll talk to the mayor and I'll talk to the Chief Health Officer about that.

**REPORTER:**

Are we looking at reimposing restrictions here in Queensland as to what people can do?

**PREMIER:**

Not at this stage. We will update you if we need to make any further announcements.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any consideration on total border closure to every state or territory?

**PREMIER:**

We are comfortable with the situations in Tasmania, in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory at this moment. If there's any change we will update Queenslanders on that.

**REPORTER:**

The three men who came back from Melbourne, have they tested negative or positive?

**PREMIER:**

At this stage yes, they have tested negative and my understanding is they'll have another test. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

This one's for Dr Young. Dr Young, on testing delays – what progress is being made and what's the turnaround like and what are you hoping for?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, it has got longer which is to be expected given that 85,000 Queenslanders heard that call over the last week and came forward. And I'm very, very grateful to every single one of those

and I know that the amount of time they've had to wait for a result has increased. One would expect that.

**REPORTER:**

Roughly, can you paint a picture?

**DR YOUNG:**

So it depends. It depends where in the state the rest was done. It depends whether it was done publicly or privately, which fever clinic, et cetera, et cetera

**REPORTER:**

How long roughly?

**DR YOUNG:**

It varies, Patrick.

**REPORTER:**

But what's the range?

**DR YOUNG:**

Significant. It can go anywhere from a few hours up to several days.

**REPORTER:**

And the lady in Ipswich you don't know how she's contracted it yet?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, I only found that one out this morning when we got the information. Because there are so many people getting tested we can't get all of the details at the time that they're being tested because that causes delays in those fever clinic queues. And given that one person has tested positive out of 13,000 I've given the request to all of the clinics, could they just please test everyone and we'll follow up later with someone who's positive.

**REPORTER:**

Presumably she hasn't travelled or come back from anywhere...

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. I have no idea at the point. Absolutely no idea. So I assume she's not in a hotel quarantine situation because that would normally be documented on the form but I can't even be certain about that. We'll get that information in the next few hours.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any consideration on total border closure to every state or territory?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. I have no idea at the point. Absolutely no idea. So I assume she's not in a hotel quarantine situation because that would normally be documented on the form but I can't even be certain about that. We'll get that information in the next few hours.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, acknowledging that you get a huge number of requests for exemptions just to go back to the matter with DFAT. They've said that they never supported an exemption of that individual and in terms of allowing interstate travel that has always been the jurisdiction of the states. Can you just explain where the ball got dropped here with that particular individual?

**DR YOUNG:**

The ball didn't get dropped. So that individual did everything they should have done and they whole system did what it should do. But my concern is we're now well over 18.3 million cases across the world so it's time to review whether that is still a sensible exemption to have in place. So I have spoken to my colleagues at AHPPC because it was at AHPPC, at the request of the Commonwealth, that that exemption was put in place early on in this pandemic. It's time now to review it and I was informed that we could, as a state, unilaterally make a decision. So Queensland has done that. We are then going to further discuss whether other states and territories will do the same thing or not. That's now up to, the Commonwealth has said, that decision they now have left with each state and territory to make themselves. Initially, it was a joint decision that we all shared.

**REPORTER:**

With that consular case did Queensland Health grant the exemption first for the man to come back into Queensland or was it New South Wales Health who granted the exemption first?

**DR YOUNG:**

So New South Wales Health approached Queensland and we said yes, it did meet that exemption so yes, we would allow that person to travel as per the exemption. And the individual wore a mask, did everything correctly. The only concern I had is that when we agreed all these exemptions we said when people went on to a domestic plane that the planes would sit them with no one else around them. That unfortunately didn't occur because the plane was packed. So that's a concern which is the other reason why I think that people must stay at their port of arrival.

**REPORTER:**

Did he explicitly say that he was seeking that exemption to return to Queensland not have to stay in hotel quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

We did receive a letter from DFAT, and we received a letter from the gentleman himself.

**REPORTER:**

That letter from DFAT clearly states that he is not a consular staff or a diplomat. Did anybody confirm that they checked his details, that is was bone fide?

**DR YOUNG:**

That the letter's bone fide? I believe it is.

**REPORTER:**

Not that this man was in fact consular or diplomat?

**DR YOUNG:**

He had a diplomatic passport so yes, I was fairly comfortable that the information was accurate. I don't think there's been any suggestion that there's been any fraudulent behaviour here.

**REPORTER:**

So why was it referred to police? Why was any of this referred to police?

**DR YOUNG:**

Just to make sure. A double check that the information was accurate because I'm not an expert at determining fraud so to me, it looked like a genuine letter. It had a stamp on it, it had a heading but that's not my expertise so just to make sure given the enormous interest in this case which I think is very, very appropriate. I think Queenslanders should be interested when exemptions are given. So that's the reason.

**REPORTER:**

Did that letter explicitly say that man was seeking an exemption to hotel quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, yes, oh absolutely. He was in quarantine in a hotel in Sydney and he was asking could he please be quarantined at home. That was the whole point of the exemption request. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

What are the two historic cases?

**DR YOUNG:**

One's a lady who travelled to Canada back in February-March, came back perfectly well since then but she was interested in knowing whether she'd maybe contracted the infection. So we do have the ability now to do serology testing. It was done in the private sector, confirms that she probably had it. Serology is not 100 per cent so that's why it's a probable case, not a confirmed case. Then the other person travelled to Tasmania back in March and you might remember back in March Tasmania had that big outbreak in their northern parts so I assume it's related to that. I don't know that. Perfectly well since then and she also was interested to know whether or not she'd had the infection. So they're of no concern today in Queensland. Absolutely none.

**REPORTER:**

Just to confirm, with the security contractor – does that mean then that the police investigation if you like is concluded?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well that's a question for police.

**REPORTER:**

Can you update us?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Simply yes. So we've verified the bone fides of what's been presented by this person and what they've said and we have no concerns about that person at all.

**REPORTER:**

And quickly just on the border pass, how do people go about applying for that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So it will be the same online system. So through QHealth or through the Queensland Government website and that should be... we are planning to have that up and running by Friday night. Obviously the system's being built on at the moment so it will be the same system and then they'll be walked through.

**REPORTER:**

But will you have to prove your address and photo ID? Do you have to submit that as part of the application?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yes. So part of the application you'll have to identify where you're living. That will then tell them whether they're in the area that's exempt or not.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Absolutely.

**REPORTER:**

Deputy Commissioner, DFAT said that this is a...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Thought I'd got away. Sorry.

**REPORTER:**



DFAT did say that this individual had claimed on his paperwork that he was a consular official and that that was contrary to what his employee guidelines were, is there a police response to that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No, we're very comfortable that this person, as the Chief Health Officer has just said, had done the right. We're very comfortable with the information that's been provided. I think pretty clearly as both the Premier and Jeanette Young have identified – there was a system issue here that's been addressed. We think it's been dealt with appropriately. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Alright, thanks everyone.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DFO

Engagement: Press conference

Speaker/s: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 5 August 2020

Duration: 31 minutes 48 seconds

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### *E&OE*

#### **PREMIER:**

Okay, so today we have one new case. That new case is currently under investigation. It's a 68-year-old woman in the West Moreton area, and as we get more details during the day, we'll update Queenslanders during the day about that case. We also have two historic cases. So our active cases in Queensland remains at 11. And we have told confirmed cases – 1,088. I really want to thank Queenslanders who have come out and been tested. Over the last 24 hours we've done 13,715 tests. So well done. And of course, if anyone's got any symptoms, please come out and get tested.

Well, as we know, there have been a large number of active cases in Victoria, and we are continuing to see cases in New South Wales. This is a very concerning situation. It's a very concerning situation that we are seeing – the lockdown happening in Victoria, and the huge impact that that is having on the economy. And our hearts go out to Victoria. We know they'll get through this together, and we will continue to monitor what's happening down there. But the impacts on the economy are really large. We've seen construction reduced down to 25 per cent. We've seen impacts on retail. We've seen impacts on the way people live their lifestyle and the shutdown of cafes and restaurants. And of course, in New South Wales, we are continuing to see cases happen each day, and this is of great concern to Queensland.

I can confirm that yesterday members of the Queensland Disaster Management Group met extensively and we have also met extensively again this morning. I can now confirm that our Chief Health Officer is declaring New South Wales and the ACT a hotspot. This will take immediate effect from Saturday, 1:00am. And this is the right thing to do. I know it's going to be tough on Queenslanders. But your health comes first. Your health comes first. We need to protect not only our health, we need to protect the families, we need to protect our economy. We've seen what's happened in Victoria. We don't want to see that happening here. Businesses have said to me, loudly and clearly, that they do not want to go backwards. They want to stay where they are. And we need Queenslanders supporting Queenslanders.

It's also very important that Queenslanders stay in Queensland. Now is not the time to travel to New South Wales. Now is not the time to travel to Victoria. And I will not risk the safety of Queenslanders, and I will not risk our economy. We have seen that Victoria is not getting better, and we're not going to wait for New South Wales to get worse. We need to act, and we have taken the decisive decision to act. I said I will not hesitate, and today is the day. Today

is the day that I say to Queenslanders, "We have listened to you. We are concerned about what is happening in the southern states. And today is the day that we say we are putting Queenslanders first."

I want to thank Dr Young for her extensive work that she has been doing in keeping our state healthy and keeping our state safe. But as we have seen, these continuous breaches that have happened by Queenslanders going down to Victoria, by Victorians coming up through the New South Wales border, and into Queensland – it's putting our Queensland at risk. And we have to do everything we possibly can to stop that. So these tough... this tough border measure, this tough border measure against New South Wales – and we have to include ACT because, as the Deputy Commissioner will give an example of someone from New South Wales who went through Canberra into Queensland – is putting everything we have in Queensland at risk. We cannot risk a second wave. We have to act decisively and today we have acted quickly. We have put Queenslanders first. I'll hand over to the Deputy Premier, then Dr Young, and then our Deputy Commissioner and we're happy to take questions.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you, Premier. That additional case in West Moreton means our number of active cases remains 11, five of those are in hospital. Here in Queensland, we went 63 days with no community transmission, more than two months with no community transmission, but that all changed seven days ago. A lot can change in a week, and we've seen in other states how it only... It can only take one case to see a widespread outbreak. In that week, we've had nine cases here in Queensland. Two travellers from Victoria, three cases of local transmission, two Queenslanders who travelled to Sydney, and one returning Queenslanders via Sydney, as well as that one case today and we don't yet know the source of their infection. Those cases have placed an enormous burden on our health system. We've done 85,000 tests in that week – 84,795 tests. We've contact traced thousands of Queenslanders. Many are now in quarantine.

We have seen people go to great lengths to avoid our border lockdown. People have been dishonest, people trying to deceive our police, people lying on their border passes, and not just in the border but around the state, in Cairns, Townsville, Gympie, Nanango. In fact, police have now served more than a dozen notices to appear in court. Over that week, also, Victoria has declared a state of emergency, masks are now mandatory, there's a curfew in the city. New South Wales is on high alert and we've seen cases there creeping north of the city. It is clear now that Australia is experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 and we cannot afford to have that second wave here in Queensland. There is also intelligence to suggest that some people are flying via the ACT in order to avoid our hotspots lockdown. Here in Queensland, our economy has just started getting back on its feet. Our plan to unite and recover and get people back into jobs is just starting to work. We've eased restrictions. Businesses are open again. People are back at work. We cannot afford to risk that progress. We cannot afford to risk the opportunity to unite and recover. Throughout this entire pandemic our Premier has stood strong. She has listened, she has listened to the health advice, she has listened to Queenslanders, and that is precisely what we are doing today.

These steps... well there'll be some critics. It might be the LNP. It might be Clive Palmer. But we are doing the right thing to keep Queenslanders safe. Border restrictions have proven to be one of the most effective tools at stopping COVID-19 from coming into our state, and

that's why today we are closing the border to New South Wales. All of New South Wales and the ACT will be declared a hotspot – this is a hard closure. The road border between Queensland and New South Wales will be closed to all but a very limited number exemptions, freight and those who live in border communities. This will come into effect at 1am Saturday, so if you are a Queenslander in New South Wales, please come home. If you are a Queenslander who has any travel plans to travel to New South Wales, please change those plans now. Anyone else travelling to Queensland and allowed to continue to Queensland will have to travel by air or via the Northern Territory border, they will not be able to travel into Queensland via the Queensland-New South Wales border and police will be enforcing that. We will also be strengthening the application process for border passes to ensure that people have to provide photographic identification.

This is all about keeping Queenslanders safe and catching anyone who tries to lie to get into our state. With the nation's second biggest economy closed, with our biggest state economy on the brink, we need to keep the Queensland economy going for Queenslanders, but also in the national interest and that is why I would urge the Prime Minister to support these steps and I would also urge Clive Palmer to drop his dangerous and reckless case against state border closures. They are incredibly important. These steps, these measures will be reviewed at the end of the month, they will cause some inconvenience but that inconvenience is nothing compared to what people are experiencing right now in Victoria, nothing compared to the inconvenience of having to go back to state one restrictions. So I would urge all Queenslanders to stay safe, to get tested if they are sick, to wash their hands, to keep their distance, together we will get through this.

**DR YOUNG:**

One new case of COVID-19 was confirmed overnight in Queensland and two historical cases. The new case is a lady who lives in the Ipswich area, she is 68 years old and we are just following through with her this morning to urgently find out how she's acquired the case. Now it is very important that people continue to do what they've been doing. So 85,000 Queenslanders have got tested for COVID-19 over the last week, which is a brilliant result and I recognise the impost on each and every single one of those people, because they need to then after they've been tested wait in their home in isolation until they get the result and it is really, really important that they do that. And they have been doing that. So the three things that I implore every single Queenslander to do; the first one is if they're unwell to isolate themselves at home and get tested as soon as possible. The second is to maintain social distancing, we don't know where we might get another case in Queensland and it is too late then to socially distance, so maintain social distancing and wash your hands. And the third is reconsider your need to travel to anywhere in New South Wales, ACT, Victoria or overseas, and if you do need to travel it is an absolute travel, it is an absolute urgent requirement that you need to travel, then when you come back, you will with very, very few exemptions be going into hotel quarantine for 14 days. And as of 1am on Saturday morning, you won't be able to fly into Queensland unless you are bringing freight, so commercial freight, or you live in one of the border communities, or you live across the Northern Territory border and you are coming through that border. So as of 1am Saturday, Queenslanders returning home will need to fly home to Queensland, and if they have cars, organise alternative arrangements. Thank you.

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So in the last day we've seen 53 flights come into Queensland, 2232 passengers have been processed. 126 placed into quarantine. None of them were refused entry. At our roads, 5614 vehicles have been intercepted, 77 persons still are refused entry into Queensland and 31 placed in quarantine. On that issue of still refusing people coming into Queensland, can I highlight a couple of investigations that have progressed yesterday. You would've no doubt heard that two persons in their 60s at Nanango were found to have falsely declared on their border declaration passes. They have been issued with notices to appear for false declaration. Can I highlight to the community that these are very serious offences? They carry, as an on-the-spot fine a \$4000 dollar fine and a much more significant penalty in a court of law, but more particularly also carry 18 months imprisonment as a potential penalty, so very serious offences indeed. Disappointingly for us, we are currently investigating a male person who we will allege, when they appear in court, has deliberately driven from Sydney, out of a hotspot, into the ACT to get a flight to come to Brisbane and then connected into Cairns, and that person has expressed they were frustrated with the restrictions, didn't like them and wanted to go to work, so a quite selfish approach to how this is doing. That person also will be facing charges.

That highlights that this type of this happening as people are trying to get across our borders. And whilst our system is working quite well, we recognise that we cannot keep this up with the types of numbers that are coming, given the risks that we have to our community, so the announcement this morning will allow us, as we go forward, to really focus on everyone coming into this state. So unless people have either an exemption or a pass for freight, or as a cross-border resident, and there will be a very particular process they have to go through for their border declaration pass which is currently being developed, verifying their identity and also a specialist exemption as the Chief Health Officer has alluded to and unless they have them, they will be 100 per cent stopped. So everyone will be 100 per cent audited at both our road borders and our air borders as of Saturday. There will be no way to get through unless you have those exemptions, and indeed all those other persons that have the passes will still be checked. There'll be still random checks done on those as well. So we're committed to making sure that the state remains safe and that we keep COVID out of this. The messaging, as you heard, is very clear – the borders are a very important part of our defences in the state. They're not the complete defence. So of course need to make sure our social distancing and hygiene and not going to work is all observed because if anyone does get through and they're carrying the virus, we need to be able to stop it spreading. Thank you.

### **REPORTER:**

Are you saying that you can't keep this up? Is it too confusing, too cumbersome, the whole different local government areas?

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No. The numbers of people that are coming through at the moment, what's concerning us... the vast majority of people are doing the right thing, vast majority. There are clearly a small percentage who are doing the wrong thing and deliberately deceiving the system to try and get through, for their own purposes. What we've seen already in one instance is some of

those were positive for COVID and infected with COVID. Whist those numbers are small, the risks are too high.

**REPORTER:**

It's probably easier now, if you've just...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

We anticipate that it'll be a much stronger compliance regime, so it'll allow us, with refusing entry to all of those that can't come out of the hotspots of Victoria, ACT and New South Wales, that we'll be able to do a higher percentage of auditing of those that are allowed through. So more people will be intercepted and more freight will be intercepted, more cross border checks for those that are coming out of cross border areas. But in particular, the message to all those other people who don't qualify for those exemptions, don't come. You won't be allowed in.

**REPORTER:**

Just to clarify, if I am a Queenslander coming back on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, I can still drive across the border, but going into quarantine?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

You'll be going into 14 days of self-paid quarantine. Can I just say also to the community, thank you. So in the last week what we've seen is an increase in reports to the police around concerns about people who are doing the wrong thing. Now that has led to a number of the investigations I've spoken to. So clearly the community has had enough of this because we're starting to see those reports come in.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, this seems extreme given the numbers in New South Wales are relatively small. They're nowhere near the Victorian numbers, and they seem to be fairly well contained to those hotspots or clusters. Is this just going too far?

**PREMIER:**

Definitely not. We don't want to see a second wave in Queensland. We've seen how catastrophic it is to the Victorian economy. We are seeing New South Wales on edge. The Premier herself in New South Wales says she is on high alert. They're encouraging people to wear masks in public places. My job is to protect Queenslanders' health and to protect our economy and lifestyle. We've seen in Victoria, there are 6076 current active cases. In New South Wales there are 255 current active cases. And New South Wales has reported 110 positive cases in the last seven days. We have seen people deliberately flouting the law to get entry into Queensland. We have seen Queenslanders go into New South Wales at the Apollo restaurant and come back positive with COVID. We cannot put Queenslanders at risk. It is too important. You only have to look at the images that we are seeing down in Victoria in the aged care homes where they now have more active cases in aged care than we have in total that we've had in Queensland over the last six months. This is the right decision for Queenslanders. It is a hard border closure with New South Wales, with Victoria and the ACT.

**REPORTER:**

What about those businesses on the Gold Coast who have been screaming out?

**PREMIER:**

It's going to be tough. It is going to be tough for some of our small businesses in some of those communities. So now today I'm asking Queenslanders to get out there and continue to support Queenslanders. But what would be more catastrophic is to take Queensland backwards, is to actually have to be shutting the Gold Coast because there's an outbreak of someone who has deliberately deceived their border pass, come into the Gold Coast, and then we have a second wave. That would be even more catastrophic. This is about protecting our economy and protecting Queenslanders' health.

**REPORTER:**

Was it an error opening in the first place?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

Why?

**PREMIER:**

No, because we... I always listened to the health advice, and it is exactly what I've done today.

**REPORTER:**

You were attacking Deb Frecklington [inaudible].

**PREMIER:**

No, not at all. Not at all. I always take the health advice, and Queenslanders can be rest assured that myself and the Deputy Premier always listen to our Chief Health Officer. And we've also had our management committee meeting where we have met with the Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner about these continual breaches of our borders. So the breaches will now stop.

**REPORTER:**

How does politics play into it so close to the election?

**PREMIER:**

This is about people's health, Patrick. There are people dying. This is a life and death situation here. Everyone is serious about this. I have travelled across Queensland and people are continuously raising with me about the strong actions we are taking to protect their family's health. Look what's happening in Victoria, people can't even see their loved ones who are dying in nursing homes. We are seeing an economy down there which is going to

have a huge impact with the Australian economy. I need to maintain our strong economy here in Queensland – our agriculture, our mining, our small business needs to function. We need to be supplying Victoria with food into the future. Like, I mean, it is too important. If we see the collapse of the New South Wales economy, we can't afford the collapse of the Queensland economy.

**REPORTER:**

Have you got any support for tourism operators? I know Whitsundays are calling for more support, Gold Coast as well – will you look at any sort of support [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, I was actually up at... That's a good question. I was actually up in the Whitsundays just recently, and I was at Airlie Beach and the hotel told me that the majority of people that were staying in their hotel were from regional Queensland and from Brisbane. I deliberately asked the question, were there people from other states. Now, this is going to be tough for a few months. But everyone, we are in a world pandemic. I mean you only have to listen to the World Health Organisation – it is getting worse. It is not getting better. They are saying very clear that every jurisdiction needs to protect its community and that's exactly what I'm doing.

**REPORTER:**

How will it work in the border communities? Will it be similar to what it was last time?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so there's going to be a specific border community pass. There will be limited exemptions, but photographic ID will have to be shown. I tried very hard to keep those communities safe but unfortunately the New South Wales Premier wasn't up to listening and up to making it smoother for those communities. So we know that there are emergency services personnel that work in those border communities and vice-versa and of course, school students and business. We will work with them to make sure that they have those exemptions.

**REPORTER:**

You can still cross for health care and going to work?

**PREMIER:**

Yes. Yes, yes, of course. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Last night you released a statement Premier that said you've changed the rules around allowing diplomatic and consular staff....

**PREMIER:**

Yes. Through a health direction.

**REPORTER:**



What changed? Because on Monday you didn't believe you had those powers.

**PREMIER:**

So conversations happened with the Federal Government and it was conveyed to us that we had the power in Queensland to put in place that exemption and that's what the Chief Health Officer did.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, do you think Schoolies should go ahead this year?

**PREMIER:**

Oh Patrick, look...it's a fair way off but...we can't have mass gatherings. We need to be very careful. I do want to get some advice on that. I'll be talking to Dr Young. I mean, everything's hard for everyone at the moment. Things are changing constantly, and Schoolies may look a different...may look in some different form. It might be smaller gatherings. I'll talk to the mayor and I'll talk to the Chief Health Officer about that.

**REPORTER:**

Are we looking at reimposing restrictions here in Queensland as to what people can do?

**PREMIER:**

Not at this stage. We will update you if we need to make any further announcements.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any consideration on total border closure to every state or territory?

**PREMIER:**

We are comfortable with the situations in Tasmania, in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory at this moment. If there's any change we will update Queenslanders on that.

**REPORTER:**

The three men who came back from Melbourne, have they tested negative or positive?

**PREMIER:**

At this stage yes, they have tested negative and my understanding is they'll have another test. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

This one's for Dr Young. Dr Young, on testing delays – what progress is being made and what's the turnaround like and what are you hoping for?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, it has got longer which is to be expected given that 85,000 Queenslanders heard that call over the last week and came forward. And I'm very, very grateful to every single one of those

and I know that the amount of time they've had to wait for a result has increased. One would expect that.

**REPORTER:**

Roughly, can you paint a picture?

**DR YOUNG:**

So it depends. It depends where in the state the rest was done. It depends whether it was done publicly or privately, which fever clinic, et cetera, et cetera

**REPORTER:**

How long roughly?

**DR YOUNG:**

It varies, Patrick.

**REPORTER:**

But what's the range?

**DR YOUNG:**

Significant. It can go anywhere from a few hours up to several days.

**REPORTER:**

And the lady in Ipswich you don't know how she's contracted it yet?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, I only found that one out this morning when we got the information. Because there are so many people getting tested we can't get all of the details at the time that they're being tested because that causes delays in those fever clinic queues. And given that one person has tested positive out of 13,000 I've given the request to all of the clinics, could they just please test everyone and we'll follow up later with someone who's positive.

**REPORTER:**

Presumably she hasn't travelled or come back from anywhere...

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. I have no idea at the point. Absolutely no idea. So I assume she's not in a hotel quarantine situation because that would normally be documented on the form but I can't even be certain about that. We'll get that information in the next few hours.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any consideration on total border closure to every state or territory?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. I have no idea at the point. Absolutely no idea. So I assume she's not in a hotel quarantine situation because that would normally be documented on the form but I can't even be certain about that. We'll get that information in the next few hours.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, acknowledging that you get a huge number of requests for exemptions just to go back to the matter with DFAT. They've said that they never supported an exemption of that individual and in terms of allowing interstate travel that has always been the jurisdiction of the states. Can you just explain where the ball got dropped here with that particular individual?

**DR YOUNG:**

The ball didn't get dropped. So that individual did everything they should have done and they whole system did what it should do. But my concern is we're now well over 18.3 million cases across the world so it's time to review whether that is still a sensible exemption to have in place. So I have spoken to my colleagues at AHPPC because it was at AHPPC, at the request of the Commonwealth, that that exemption was put in place early on in this pandemic. It's time now to review it and I was informed that we could, as a state, unilaterally make a decision. So Queensland has done that. We are then going to further discuss whether other states and territories will do the same thing or not. That's now up to, the Commonwealth has said, that decision they now have left with each state and territory to make themselves. Initially, it was a joint decision that we all shared.

**REPORTER:**

With that consular case did Queensland Health grant the exemption first for the man to come back into Queensland or was it New South Wales Health who granted the exemption first?

**DR YOUNG:**

So New South Wales Health approached Queensland and we said yes, it did meet that exemption so yes, we would allow that person to travel as per the exemption. And the individual wore a mask, did everything correctly. The only concern I had is that when we agreed all these exemptions we said when people went on to a domestic plane that the planes would sit them with no one else around them. That unfortunately didn't occur because the plane was packed. So that's a concern which is the other reason why I think that people must stay at their port of arrival.

**REPORTER:**

Did he explicitly say that he was seeking that exemption to return to Queensland not have to stay in hotel quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

We did receive a letter from DFAT, and we received a letter from the gentleman himself.

**REPORTER:**

That letter from DFAT clearly states that he is not a consular staff or a diplomat. Did anybody confirm that they checked his details, that is was bone fide?

**DR YOUNG:**

That the letter's bone fide? I believe it is.

**REPORTER:**

Not that this man was in fact consular or diplomat?

**DR YOUNG:**

He had a diplomatic passport so yes, I was fairly comfortable that the information was accurate. I don't think there's been any suggestion that there's been any fraudulent behaviour here.

**REPORTER:**

So why was it referred to police? Why was any of this referred to police?

**DR YOUNG:**

Just to make sure. A double check that the information was accurate because I'm not an expert at determining fraud so to me, it looked like a genuine letter. It had a stamp on it, it had a heading but that's not my expertise so just to make sure given the enormous interest in this case which I think is very, very appropriate. I think Queenslanders should be interested when exemptions are given. So that's the reason.

**REPORTER:**

Did that letter explicitly say that man was seeking an exemption to hotel quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, yes, oh absolutely. He was in quarantine in a hotel in Sydney and he was asking could he please be quarantined at home. That was the whole point of the exemption request. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

What are the two historic cases?

**DR YOUNG:**

One's a lady who travelled to Canada back in February-March, came back perfectly well since then but she was interested in knowing whether she'd maybe contracted the infection. So we do have the ability now to do serology testing. It was done in the private sector, confirms that she probably had it. Serology is not 100 per cent so that's why it's a probable case, not a confirmed case. Then the other person travelled to Tasmania back in March and you might remember back in March Tasmania had that big outbreak in their northern parts so I assume it's related to that. I don't know that. Perfectly well since then and she also was interested to know whether or not she'd had the infection. So they're of no concern today in Queensland. Absolutely none.

**REPORTER:**

Just to confirm, with the security contractor – does that mean then that the police investigation if you like is concluded?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well that's a question for police.

**REPORTER:**

Can you update us?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Simply yes. So we've verified the bone fides of what's been presented by this person and what they've said and we have no concerns about that person at all.

**REPORTER:**

And quickly just on the border pass, how do people go about applying for that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So it will be the same online system. So through QHealth or through the Queensland Government website and that should be... we are planning to have that up and running by Friday night. Obviously the system's being built on at the moment so it will be the same system and then they'll be walked through.

**REPORTER:**

But will you have to prove your address and photo ID? Do you have to submit that as part of the application?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yes. So part of the application you'll have to identify where you're living. That will then tell them whether they're in the area that's exempt or not.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Absolutely.

**REPORTER:**

Deputy Commissioner, DFAT said that this is a...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Thought I'd got away. Sorry.

**REPORTER:**

DFAT did say that this individual had claimed on his paperwork that he was a consular official and that that was contrary to what his employee guidelines were, is there a police response to that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No, we're very comfortable that this person, as the Chief Health Officer has just said, had done the right. We're very comfortable with the information that's been provided. I think pretty clearly as both the Premier and Jeanette Young have identified – there was a system issue here that's been addressed. We think it's been dealt with appropriately. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Alright, thanks everyone.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DFO

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young and Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 7 August 2020

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*E&OE*

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

We have no new cases of COVID-19 to confirm in Queensland. This morning, in fact, our total number of cases goes backwards one because of that false positive that we were able to confirm late yesterday, our number of active cases has also gone down to 11. Six of those cases remain in hospital. I've continued to be blown away by the support of Queenslanders in going and getting tested. In the last 24 hours, 16,183 people got tested. Our pathology labs - public and private - processed 17,723 tests. That is a fantastic effort. And if you recall that we had set ourselves a target of 5000 tests a day. We describe our total capacity at 10,000 a day. To consistently be doing that level of testing is a great result. We thank Queenslanders were coming forward. We, of course, thank our scientists and lab workers for their efforts, and it's that high testing level that can give us a degree of confidence around community transmission, a degree of confidence around whether there is any transmission that we aren't aware of. Since we confirmed those cases of young women who returned from Melbourne, we have done 119,495 tests in just over a week, a nine-day period, bringing the total number of Queenslanders now tested to nearly 580,000 cases. Given it is more than a week this weekend, the stakes remain high, but we would hope in coming days to have some level of satisfaction, some level of comfort that there hasn't been additional community transmission caused by those cases.

Of course, we continue to closely monitor cases in New South Wales and Victoria. As of yesterday, New South Wales was reporting 270 active cases. Victoria was reporting 7449 active cases. For a daily average of new cases of 519.

We have been working hard these last couple of days to prepare for that hard border closure at 1am tomorrow morning. I'd ask people coming to this date, returning to the state, for their patience today and over the next few days. I want to thank everyone at the Queensland Police Service and within Queensland Health who have been putting those measures together and preparing for them. A range of information was uploaded to the Queensland Health website this morning. The directions themselves, the maps, as well as some frequently asked questions, which we hope will address a lot of the questions people have. The team continued to work on the information technology system behind the border pass updates and they, we hope, will come online late today. These new, tough border restrictions are all about keeping Queensland and Queenslanders safe, they are all about keeping the virus out of Queensland,

protecting the lives of Queenslanders so that we can continue with our plan to recover our economy and get people back to work.

The Chief Health Officer and the Deputy Commissioner will say a few words in a moment about reports that there are protests planned to be held this weekend and I want to say, very clearly, that any breach of our health directions could put the lives of Queenslanders at risk. We are not out of the woods yet from those cases that we have confirmed over the last week or so, and to people who are concerned about the treatment of refugees, I understand your concern. They appreciate your concern, however, your concern is with decisions of the Federal Government, not with Queenslanders who could be put at risk, whose health could be put at risk if these protests were to go ahead. If the weekend goes well, if we continue to not record cases of community transmission, the Chief Health Officer hopes to next week be able to lift the restrictions on people visiting aged care facilities. That's what is at stake here, whether hundreds of Queenslanders can have their families visit them in their nursing homes or not. The decision, anyone's decision to breach these directions and put that at risk, put the ability of people to their family members visit them in their nursing care facility at risk, is not selfless, it is selfish. They should not think for a moment that they are part of one of the world's great protest movements. Those great protest movements with their own lives at risk. Not the lives of others, not the lives of innocent people. And as the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner will underline, we will not allow them to proceed.

**DR YOUNG:**

So, no new cases overnight in Queensland, which is a fantastic result. And we can start to think that we might be able to relax at the start of next week if we have another two days of no new community-acquired cases. So we so far have five cases related to those three women who travelled down to Melbourne, and if we have no further cases in the next few days then we will be able to review all of those onerous restrictions we put in place. But, please, we can't yet relax. This weekend it is really, really important that if anyone is unwell, develops any symptoms, has any symptoms, they immediately isolate and come forward and get tested. And I ask every single Queenslanders, this weekend we have to absolutely follow all those social distancing rules. They are really important. Maintain 1.5 metre distance at all times, wash your hands. Small gatherings. All of those things are critical. So that is why I just say please do not go and protest this weekend. It is critical. Because it will be a tough decision to make on Monday if we have seen large breaches of those Chief Health Officer directions, then I will have to take that into consideration about the advice I give the community. So we need to, all of us, think very carefully about what we're doing so we our community. So I ask everyone to continue doing that. Queenslanders have been amazing. To see the number of people who have come forward since that group returned from Melbourne to be tested and to cope with all of those delays at the fever clinics we saw, to cope with waiting for those results and the anxiety that that causes, to do all of that and, potentially, have it undone because people breach those requirements this weekend, would be an awful thing to see. So I do encourage everyone, please, continue doing what you have been doing, continue following all the directions.

Now, as of 1am Saturday, our borders have toughened again, because of what we are continuing to see in New South Wales. So New South Wales has done such a brilliant job to



maintain a where they are, but despite that they are still seeing, every single day, cases that they can't link back to known outbreaks. So that's why we really, to keep Queenslanders safe, we needed to reinstitute those border controls. It means a lot of inconvenience for a lot of people. I understand that. And we have seen large numbers of Queenslanders coming back through the borders in the past few days, which is good. So, from a 1am Saturday, only people who live in those border communities, so Tweed and those local government areas that are adjacent to the border are able to cross the border freely. They can only come into the adjacent communities on the other side of the border. They can't go through the rest of Queensland. That's really, really important. I know their lives are lived across the border, which is why they need to be able to come in. Anyone else from anywhere else in New South Wales or the ACT or, of course, Victoria, cannot come into Queensland unless they fly and they come through the airport and they've got an exemption to be in Queensland. So they are a Queenslander returning home, or they are someone who has an exemption to come into Queensland for whatever purpose that may be. Now, the vast majority of those people, of course, to keep Queenslanders safe, will need to go into hotel quarantine for 14 days. There are some exemptions full that people will need to apply for. But there are very, very few and that is so important for us to do, at this point in time, while we see those ongoing cases happening in New South Wales in the ACT. And, really, it's about them having to manage those cases that came through into both New South Wales and the ACT that came through into their states from Victoria. Now that they have closed their border and New South Wales has introduced mandatory hotel quarantine for Victorians or people who have been in Victoria coming into New South Wales, that will assist them to get on top of all of their cases. So hopefully we will be able to remove those restrictions as soon as New South Wales has been able to get on top of their cases, and I have great confidence that I will be able to do that. So that is really important.

There is a lot of information on our website about the implications of that border change and what it means, who can travel, what sort of border passes are needed, what needs to be done. It is a complicated process but if you have a look at the website you will get a lot of the information and the questions. If you have got more questions, put them through and we will sort out answers and share them with everyone. Because if you've got a question there is a big chance lots of other people have that question. And we will just work that through. So today in Queensland, good news, another day of no cases, but it is too soon to relax. It is far too soon. We have still got to be really, really careful and diligent as we continue to go forward. So thank you.

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning, everyone. If I could just start with some figures around what is happening at our borders. As we have expected, the last couple of days have proven quite busy with an increase in the numbers coming across. We had 73 flights yesterday, 3393 passengers were processed, 42 put into quarantine, and 12 refused entry. An increase in our road borders as well – 6223 vehicles were checked, 68 people were refused entry and 54 have gone into quarantine.

If I could stay on borders for the moment, that's obviously an area of great concern for the community about what is going to happen. As you have heard from the Chief Health Officer,

as of 1:00am we moved to the new regime. Look, to put that really simply, Victoria, ACT, and New South Wales all become hotspots unless you have one of the exemptions. Unless you have one of the exemptions. And that is if you are a cross-border person, so you will get an 'X pass' for that. Whether you are doing freight supply and you have your 'F pass' for that, or whether you are a specialist worker and you have an 'S pass,' and you must satisfy the criteria for that and you must have those passes and meet those the criteria before you get one, you are not going to be allowed into Queensland. And you are not be allowed into Queensland at all over the road borders.

So for those people coming perhaps out of South Australia, Western Australia, they need to understand they can't come into Queensland through those states. As soon as they enter those states they have entered the hotspot, they won't be allowed in. Queenslanders want to return after 1:00am tomorrow morning will need to come back by flight unless they have the exemptions. Our offices are ready to enforce that.

We are working on the IT system at the moment. Obviously, we are trying to include identification in the new process so people can put those details into the system. Very hopeful that will be up and running by this afternoon. But if we have any glitches, we are in the IT world there, I can guarantee everyone we will still enforce the new system and then everyone will get stopped as at 1:00am until we catch up with that system. So very pleased to say that Health have already put up the directions and the maps. So for those people that are concerned about whether they are in a cross-border area or not, they need to check the website. That's the best place to go for that. And on that, please make sure you are certain around doing that. And there is also, as people living in the Tweed need to understand, that does not mean you can go anywhere in New South Wales and then come back and go across the border. That is not on either. They need to stay in their bubble if they want to be able to come across.

Following up our advice yesterday around our on compliance checking of people in quarantine. Of those three matters under investigation we have located one, and that person has been issued with an on-the-spot fine for disobeying the direction. The other two remain under investigation. We have four matters under investigation in total at the moment in relation to the Chief Health Officer's directions.

On the protest activity, I think I should mention about that. And I will say it again, now is not the time and this is not the way to do a protest around things that these people may think is important. They have so many other options at their disposal to lawfully protest. Going onto the Story Bridge and blocking it is not a lawful protest. We will do whatever we can, and we are still examining the legal options we have at our disposal to prevent that, but we are realistic enough to know that some people will still try to protest, so there is a very large police operation in place from tomorrow. They will not be permitted to block the Bradfield Highway, the Story Bridge. We will take action and if people commit offences they can expect to be arrested. I have to say for the community, of course an operation of that nature just trying to keep things safe will mean there will be disruptions. So people could put that into their planning and understand that the Story Bridge tomorrow may well be a place to stay away from and look for alternate routes across the river.

And that goes for everyone at all of our borders and everything that's going on around the COVID-19 response at the moment,. Just to say, as Jeannette has said, say thank you for everything so far, but please remain patient and listen to the messaging. We expect the road borders in particular to be quite problematic over the weekend, and please work with us.

**REPORTER:**

Those people in the border communities, are they allowed to cross into Queensland and vice-versa for any reason?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I might leave the directions to the Chief Health Officer, but I understand that is correct.

**REPORTER:**

And if they are, how do you stop them going any further [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Well, it's like anything Lane, with all of these things. They are travelling into the state with a particular border pass on it. We will have the same process in place where we want them to display that. If they are outside of the area that they are permitted to do that, we will soon pick that up through the border pass and through normal interceptions. We want people to work with us on this. The vast majority of people are truthful, are trying to do the right thing, don't want the COVID to spread into our community, we expect them to do that. Those that don't do the right thing, we will be watching out for them.

**REPORTER:**

So the honesty system?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Well it has been in part, but we have been pretty effective at identifying people that haven't done the right thing and responding to that, and I think that system has worked pretty well if you look where Queensland is at the moment.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, on the protest tomorrow, you said that you are still examining your legal options. Presumably there is a cut-off time for when you have to apply to the courts if you are going to go down that route. When is that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I am still waiting for the legal advice on where that is at at the moment. So we will get a brief later on that. But look, we will continue to push that right up to the moment. These are matters that we have to put before courts in a particular way, so we are working with the other agencies – Department of Justice and Attorney-General on how we can do about that.

**REPORTER:**

Is it Queensland Police's intention to apply to the courts?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

If we can get an instrument to prevent this protest happening we will do that. There are legal issues. You have to prove who the organisers are and all those sorts of things that we are trying to work through. But we are realistic enough to know that that may not discourage people anyway. So we are ready with our operation to go.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, the protesters have said this morning, the organisers, that if the refugees are allowed to move around and exercise then they will call the protest off. Are you aware of that? Is that something you will consider?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I have heard there have been demands. That is not really something I can help with. These are Commonwealth Government matters and are in the purview of the Commonwealth Government.

**REPORTER:**

Have you been in contact with the organisers of the protest?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

There has been some people we have been in contact with. We have to yet determine whether they are in fact organisers or not, and that is what we are working through.

**REPORTER:**

Can I get the DP on this issue? I know you are a big Broncos fan, but what are your thoughts on Wayne Bennett?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Well nobody is above these rules. The rules that apply to people in the NRL and associated with the NRL were developed by the NRL. They were endorsed by our Chief Health Officer and it is incredibly important that people comply with them and that they are enforced. And that is precisely what has happened here. It is disappointing to see a leader like Wayne Bennett contravene these rules. I think he or anyone should have understood what was at stake. I am sure he was looking forward to coming up here to the game against the Broncos, and he is going to miss out on that. That is quite a stiff penalty.

**REPORTER:**

So he has intentionally gone into the Souths team, and they are going to play Brisbane tonight. Is there any quarantining issue with the Broncos and teams that need to be addressed?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

The Chief Health Officer is better across the detail of the NRL player and what it will mean for those other players, but he has put his team at risk – his team's ongoing participation in

the competition at risk. Even the ongoing competition at risk. That is what is at stake here and none of want to see that. I certainly don't want to see that. And I hope that is not the outcome here, but that makes it a pretty expensive pizza, I guess.

**REPORTER:**

Arden Leisure has announced to the ASX this morning that the Queensland Government has given it a nearly \$70 million loan to reopen Dreamworld and some of its theme parks on the Gold Coast. What do you know about that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Thousands of Queenslanders are employed by our theme parks on the Gold Coast. They are the drawcards that bring others to the Gold Coast and employ thousands of other Queenslanders. And so unfortunately the Queensland Government was forced to step in when the Federal Government failed to support our theme parks. This support applies to both Dreamworld and the operators of the other Gold Coast theme parks and is designed to ensure that they can continue to employ people so that they can stay open and keep attracting Queenslanders to the Gold Coast for their holidays.

**REPORTER:**

So what is the total figure? So Arden Leisure gets \$70 million. What are the other parks getting?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I don't have the total figures to hand – I'm happy to get those for you – but they're roughly similar figures.

**REPORTER:**

So apparently there's been some panic buying on the Sunshine Coast. Are you concerned that people are still indulging in this?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look I'm unaware of the details of that. But what I can assure Queenslanders is that we have strong supply chains, that we produce more food than we consume, that the country produces more toilet paper than we need, that we now have very substantial supplies and supply chains of hand sanitiser, so there's no reason to be stockpiling anything. And as I said, when we saw the last round of this, to do so is just selfish. It is those that have the means to buy ahead taking from those who live week to week, pensioners, those on those low incomes. And so I would urge everyone to think not of themselves but of the wider community of their neighbours and only buy what you need.

**REPORTER:**

There's been [inaudible] safety shutdowns this morning of Cross River Rail. Are you concerned about that, that's something the union should be pursuing, or do you think it's the union causing some trouble?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I'm not across the intimate detail of those issues, but workplace safety is critical. Every single Queenslanders deserves to go to work and be safe, and this is a Government that has taken very strong measures to ensure workplace safety.

**REPORTER:**

Have any decisions been made yet around [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

No, those discussions continue. I've been meeting with those unions and discussing what the options are. It's a different proposition to the other workforce segments that have already finalised those kinds of arrangements. But clearly we appreciate our health workforce. They have done amazing things this year, and we will do whatever we can to recognise, support and thank them.

**REPORTER:**

Do you think those pandemic [inaudible] will still be in place by the end of the year [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I would hope so, but that's, as I say, subject to the arrangements that we finalise. Hospitals aren't like schools, we can't just close them for two days, and so we need to work through what arrangements might work in a hospital context.

**REPORTER:**

Can you just clarify, Dr Young, over the border communities? You just said on radio anybody [inaudible].

**DR YOUNG:**

If you live in one of those border communities south of the border between Queensland and New South Wales, and they're essentially the local government area that abuts the border, you can go from any of those communities into the equivalent community across the other side. So anywhere along the LGA, along that part of the border – for any reason, for any time.

**REPORTER:**

And how far north [inaudible] Coomera, or?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, so if you have a look on the website – it's probably the best way of looking at it – but it's the local government area... so there's a whole... It's the local government area on the Queensland side, the local government area on the New South Wales side, and you can move freely between the two. You can't, if you live in New South Wales, go any further north than that, and you can't if you're in Queensland go any further south. It's just the border communities.

**REPORTER:**

Can you explain the decision [inaudible] training, and the team to play the Broncos, what concerns should we have with everyone mixing? Are the Broncos going to have any restrictions put on them, or Souths?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, because as far as I know Mr Bennett isn't a confirmed case. So if he was a confirmed COVID case than that would cause all sorts of problems. This is just a very strong process that the NRL has put in place to minimise any risks. And the NRL management, I can't commend more highly. They have done a very thorough process, and whenever there's been a breach they've acted very promptly and they've kept me informed. So no, I don't think there are further risks, and what the NRL has done is to show that they have been solid in making sure that people adhere to their protocols, which are very sensible protocols.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, there are concerns about a potential cluster in South Australia now as well. What are your thoughts on the borders still being opened to residents of SA coming into Queensland?

**DR YOUNG:**

At the moment they do have cases, and this is what I discuss with my colleagues every single day at 12.30, so I know all the cases around the country. At the moment it's limited and it's under control. If it became less limited, there was community transmission, they didn't know where that was coming from, then of course we'd look at what we needed to do to respond. But at this point in time, they have it... it's manageable. The issue for New South Wales is that every single day they're getting a couple of cases that they have no idea where they've come from.

**REPORTER:**

Just as well on exemptions on people coming into Queensland from New South Wales. For example, can you just clarify what the line would be? I would presume that medical professions would likely get an exemption, but for example if you had...

**DR YOUNG:**

Can I answer the medical professional one? So medical professionals who have a job in Queensland – yes, they get an exemption, but they have to go into hotel quarantine for two weeks before they start work. Unless they're in the border community. So if they're in the border community, no different to any other person in the community, they can cross over. That's fine. But if they're outside the border community then they have to go into hotel quarantine. They need an exemption for me to be able to come into the state, then they have to into hotel quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

So when we talk about an exemption, we're not actually talking about an exemption from hotel quarantine, we're only talking about it in terms of actually being allowed entry to the state?

**DR YOUNG:**

People need two exemptions. They first need an exemption – if they're not a Queenslander, any Queenslander can come into the state – if they're not a Queenslander then they need an exemption to be able to come into Queensland. That's the first part of the decision making. The second part is where they need to do quarantine. So there are a very small number who don't need to do quarantine, so they're the people that bring freight into our state, they're some of our very, very essential critical workers, and health staff are not included in that. Then there's another group of people who can quarantine at home. You might have seen that when I asked people to go down to Victoria to assist Victoria with their response, I allowed those people – if they had a suitable home environment – to quarantine at home. So that's in place. And then the third group are the vast majority who need to go into hotel quarantine. And there's very few exemptions from that.

**REPORTER:**

Can I ask, the two women that came back from Melbourne, are they still being treated in hospital?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, they are.

**REPORTER:**

Are they stable?

**DR YOUNG:**

They're stable, but yes, they're still in hospital. So we need to do clearance swabs on them, and they're still testing positive at this point in time. Thank you.

[ENDS]



Engagement: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer

Date: 8 August 2020

Duration: 25mins 34sec

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## *E&OE*

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Well today is day 200 since Queensland's first case of COVID-19 and we've already said how important this weekend is and that's why I'm so pleased to report that we have no additional cases of COVID-19 here in Queensland. Our total number of cases is 1088. 11 remain active and four are in hospital. Queenslanders continue to come forward in droves to be tested for this virus. We've done 18,748 tests in the last testing period and our labs are doing a great job of staying on top of that testing load.

I can also report that over the previous fortnight we have done 157,000 tests with seven of those coming back positive. That compares to the previous fortnight of 77,000 tests and four coming back positive. So we've more than doubled our fortnightly testing rate which is a fantastic result in response to those handful of cases in the southern suburbs and south western suburbs of Brisbane. Nationally though, the number of cases continue to increase. In the last week the average number of cases each day was 491 compared to 468 in the week prior. 97 per cent of active cases are in Victoria, 3 per cent here in...sorry, 3 per cent in New South Wales.

I understand the Queensland Police Service has already provided an update on their operations and particularly the transition at the border. As at 1am this morning we now have a hard border closure between Queensland and all of New South Wales. I'd like to thank the police for the work that they've done and thank travellers for their patience as we have implemented those new arrangements. The X-Pass application form is now online. I understand it came online in the early hours of this morning and I'd like to thank everyone who's been working around the clock since that border closure decision to get that technology into place. I understand there have been some delays but over time I believe these new arrangements will see less volume of traffic, less traffic overall allowing locals to move about more freely while also allowing police to stop more other vehicles, do more enforcement, stop people sneaking into the state.

I'd also like to provide an update with regards to the protest that had been planned for today. late yesterday, on the basis of Crown Law advice, the Attorney-General made a special application to the Supreme Court and this morning the Supreme Court of Queensland has issued special injunctive relief as a result of that application from the Attorney-General on behalf of the Government. That injunction requires that the protest organisers are not

permitted to attend the protest. They are not permitted to promote the protest and they must notify their networks via the social media accounts that the protest has been cancelled. I understand two of the protest organisers attended court. Unfortunately, a third, an elected representative, didn't even both to show up and I think that reflects very, very poorly on them. These actions demonstrate just how serious we are about keeping Queenslanders safe this weekend in particular. I've just driven down here from the northern suburbs and so, I've seen the police there on the bridge in case protestors do show up. But the message is very clear – this protest is cancelled. The protest organisers will notify people that the protest is cancelled.

As I said yesterday, I'm sympathetic to the cause of these protestors but now is not the time to be putting the lives, the health, the safety, the jobs of Queenslanders at risk. Their beef is not with Queensland or Queenslanders. Their beef is with Peter Dutton. If they want to protest about the actions of Peter Dutton, they should ring his office, or they should go to Canberra. They should not be causing chaos on the streets of Brisbane. And they should understand that our police will take the necessary actions to stop them.

Finally, today we would...many Queenslanders would normally be at the Ekka. But we're not having an Ekka this year. That also means that we're not getting our normal dose of special strawberry sundaes and not raising money for the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation and their very important work. But people can still help. There are pop-up sundae clinics...sorry, pop-up sundae stands across Brisbane and the south east and I'd urge people to go along, have your fix of strawberry sundaes, support the important work of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation and if you can't, consider going online and making a contribution that way.

I'll ask the Chief Health Officer to say a few words and then we're going to talk a bit about Andy Mack.

**DR YOUNG:**

So excellent news – no new cases in Queensland today. There is one case I'm announcing which is an old case that occurred some time ago that serology has suggested probably was infected then. So that is no concern today.

It is really, really important that we don't relax. Those three things we need to continue every single one of us. If we're unwell, have any symptoms at all to immediately get tested and isolate ourselves at home. Secondly, maintain that social distancing. Unfortunately, we do not know where there might be the next case, when it might happen so we need to maintain social distancing at all times that we possibly can. And the third, is to not travel into New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria or overseas unless we absolutely have to. And then, when we come back into Queensland we'll need to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel to ensure that we then don't go out and cause any infections. If we all do those three things we can keep our families and our communities safe.

Now, I do thank the people particularly on the Gold Coast because this is a really difficult time for you and for your friends and colleagues and indeed, families who live just across the border in Tweed and across those border communities. So there are arrangements in place at this point in time that there can be free movement across the border for those immediately

adjacent communities. So those communities immediately on the north side of the border and on the south side of the border. And that will be in place at the moment but we have to keep a very, very close eye on what is happening in New South Wales for that to be able to continue. We can see that they are getting increasing numbers of cases moving north out of that Sydney metropolitan area so we'll just have to keep a very close eye. So it is even more important that people in the border communities just take note of any symptoms at all and immediately get tested because you are at higher risk living in the border community. So I do ask that you do that and you have been doing it which is great. And I also recognise the enormous delays that are happening at the border. Hopefully they will improve because people who don't live in the border communities are now going to, as of 1am this morning, have to fly when they come into Queensland. They won't be able to drive so that should make that time to transit the border for the people who live in the border communities more effective, efficient and able to do it. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, given no new cases again do you think we've avoided the worst?

**DR YOUNG:**

Please could you ask me that question on Monday. I hope we've avoided the worst but I really need to just check what happens tomorrow and Monday before I can say that. Just because, we all know, that 14 day incubation period and we all know that there are cases – around 20 per cent or so – that don't get any symptoms. So then you have to wait until they've spread it someone else to be able to pick it up so Monday is when I'll be able to say that I think that we've probably...and it's always a probable unfortunately...probably avoided further cases out of that cluster due to those young women who went down to Melbourne.

**REPORTER:**

Can you just elaborate further on the point on having Queenslanders catch a flight back instead of just being able to leave their car and quarantining near the border crossings?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. The problem is...

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yep, the problem is that I don't want us – Queensland – to in any, way, shape or form be responsible for seeding any cases in New South Wales. So allowing people from Victoria to travel through New South Wales to get into Queensland means that they could cause the infection to spread through New South Wales and it is so important for Queensland that New South Wales gets on top of their infections. So that's why we need people coming in to Queensland to fly because we have a really good process at our domestic airports in Queensland to immediately take those people and assist them to go in to hotel quarantine.

That's the first issue. The second issue is we need to decrease the numbers of people crossing the border. There are just so many people trying to cross the border that it makes it very, very difficult for police to ensure that every single person is someone who can cross the border. So it's those two reasons.

**REPORTER:**

And how come the postcode 4283 was removed overnight from the border bubble?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm sorry, I don't remember all the postcodes. You'd have to tell me.

**REPORTER:**

The Brunswick Heads postcode?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm not sure of that detail. We'd have to have a look at it. I actually thought we'd added postcodes. I didn't think we'd taken any away.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

It was included in error. It was included in error.

**DR YOUNG:**

Right.

**REPORTER:**

That a postcode that's half...half of the postcodes in the Byron Shire and half the postcodes in the Tweed Shire. At first, it was included in the bubble. It's since been taken out.

**DR YOUNG:**

Right. As you could all imagine, we're looking at every single postcode along the border to just look at whether there are any others that would make sense being in or not being in and we're just working that through now so that we have that sorted for Monday. But one thing I have done is I've given a group exemption for any children who go to school in Queensland and travel to school every single day. So that's their normal way of coming in. So we've put that in place for Monday so children can continue their education and then we're working through whether there are any other sensible groups that won't increase the risk to Queenslanders that are able to come into Queensland. So all that work is happening and people have been excellent. So people have been putting through – because people can always get an exemption – so if there is something special, an extreme exception, people can always request an exemption. They just need to go on to the website and put that through.

**REPORTER:**

So you're happy....so if people...we hear from a lot of people about the bubble. I know we have someone in our office who's in Brunswick Heads just out of the bubble. They work in Surfers Paradise. One of the other journalists this morning was mentioning someone who

lives in Point Danger up near Duramba Beach – they work in Lennox Head but they have to drive back to Queensland just to get back home. You're always happy to take those people's....

**DR YOUNG:**

We will always look at any exemption. It's unlikely they will be given unless there is a reason for it and it can be made safe for Queenslanders. So the first priority – my first priority – is always to make sure that whatever we do is safe for Queensland. So there are some things that there are broad class exemptions, for instance; freight. We have to move freight in and out of our state although it's a significant risk because those drivers are driving into hot spots in New South Wales and Victoria but we need freight to move so we've got a whole lot of protections around those drivers. So there are exemptions that we do put in place but in every single case must be that there is no alternative. I would suggest for journalists that they look at whether they can work from home. We've seen how Leigh Sales recently has been in quarantine in her own home and she's been working from home. So I know journalists are very innovative. They have really good systems in place. So my first recommendation to anyone who lives outside those border communities is to look at if you can work from home. That's what people did back in March when this came in the first time. Remember, we've been here before. We've all done this before, we've all done it very, very effectively. We now need to do it again because at this point in time there are too many cases in New South Wales where they don't know where the person acquired the case and we can see those cases steadily moving north.

**REPORTER:**

Are we still an honesty system though essentially? We've obviously had some high profile cases of people returning from Victoria. Now there's more hot spots, you have to think there's going to be more people inclined to lie on those border declarations. What would your message be to people who are thinking about [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well police did a exercise the other day where they went and knocked on an enormous number of people's doors to make sure that they were adhering to the requirements that were put on them and all but two were. It was an amazing result. So Queenslanders actually know what to do and they do it very, very effectively. There are always going to be the exceptions. Unfortunately, in our society there are criminals who break the law. And that's going to be the same here. There will be criminal who break the law. But the vast, vast majority of people are doing exactly what's needed. And I want to thank those people because in many cases people have come forward and said "I'm a bit worried. I think this person came back from Victoria and I've seen them out and about." And the police have immediately gone and worked that through. So this is about everyone hearing the message and the vast majority of people clearly have and doing what's required, knowing the enormous inconvenience this is causing. But if we all put up with this inconvenience then we can continue our lives to the extent that we are at the moment which is far better than we were back in March.

**REPORTER:**

How come the website took so long to get up and running and ready for the X-Pass [inaudible] and what time was it online?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I think if you consider just how quickly people had to move to get these directions orders written, put into place, agreed and then put the systems in place I think they actually did a very good job. What we do in these occasions is when the decision is made, very quickly from the decision being made, we notify the public but that means that the officials who need to do all of that work to put it in place, they don't get any additional notice either. And so they've moved as quickly as they could. I understand it was in place in the early hours of the morning - that's pretty close to when the new restrictions were in place - and that it's operating effectively now. It was quite a significant change to the border pass system to require people to upload their photo identification that can then be checked and confirmed by the police when they intercept people. That's a very important step. We've seen people try to get around, try to lie, deceive, sneak their way into the state and so requiring that uploading of photo identification is important but it was a significant change to the online system. They turned it around in a couple of days.

**REPORTER:**

The Queensland Human Rights Commission are arguing the treatment of some people inside hotel quarantine is unacceptable. They aren't given time outside to exercise. What do you think about that?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look we'll, as always, take into account the feedback that they have provided but hotel quarantine has been incredibly important. It's one of the things that has kept Queensland safe while this virus has spread right through the world. So we need to keep it. We need to make it safe. We need to make it secure. We need to make sure that people in quarantine aren't having contact with people outside of quarantine. We'll make it comfortable where we can but at the end of the day, it's not too much to ask people coming into our state who may have been exposed to this virus to stay in hotel quarantine for 14 days.

**REPORTER:**

Will those "wellness walks" be implemented, and if so, how soon?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Sorry what was that?

**REPORTER:**

The Human Rights Commission has ruled there should be "wellness walks" - will those be implemented and if so, how soon?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Primary responsibility for the administration of the hotel quarantine rests with police although Health are obviously closely involved and we provide health supports to people in

hotel quarantine. No doubt, no doubt those recommendations will now be considered by those agencies and the practicality of it will need to be considered. And the practicality, I'm sure, will vary depending on the different hotels that we have people in so they'll look at all of those things.

**REPORTER:**

Regarding the woman who travelled from Melbourne how many more days of no new cases [inaudible] until we're in the clear?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

As the Chief Health Officer indicated, she's really looking at the next day or so. The 14 days would take us through to Wednesday but based on what they were doing when they were back, the period of time in which they were moving out and about in the community would indicate that the risk period would be until tomorrow or Monday.

**REPORTER:**

And in relation to the protest, why did the Government lodge a last minute court application to stop the Story Bridge protest?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

As we said when we spoke yesterday we were seeking advice at that stage, legal advice at that stage, about what steps...what options were available to us. As soon as the Attorney had that advice she went to the Supreme Court and got that injunction. I think it underlines...it's not the kind of step we would normally take. Normally we would be respecting the right of people to express a view. We would encourage them to do it in a less disruptive way but under these circumstance, with the level of risk, with knowing how important this weekend was we considered it – the Attorney considered it important enough to go to the Supreme Court, get those injunctions. That's precisely what she has done and that's why that protest is now cancelled.

**REPORTER:**

The protesters are saying police threatening to arrest them takes away their right to peaceful action. Do you think your stance was too heavy handed?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Well first of all, the protest that was planned here wouldn't likely be legal even outside of COVID. It was a level of disruption that would not normally be legal under our protest laws. But what I would say to them is that they can send a message to Peter Dutton, to Scott Morrison, to the Federal Government, to the people who they are protesting against without putting the lives of Queenslanders at risk. Without putting the ability of older people in aged care to have family visit them at risk. This was not a selfless activity that they proposed. It was a selfish activity that they proposed. It was reckless and it could have seen us have to extend those aged care lockdowns for another two weeks. Imagine how devastating that would be to people living in nursing homes around Brisbane.

**REPORTER:**

The Federal Government says it wants the states to contribute more money towards coronavirus economic response. Do you think that's fair and do you think Queensland has contributed its fair share?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Well, clearly the states and the Commonwealth have different responsibilities but what we have demonstrated here in Queensland is that we will prioritise getting people back into jobs and the best way to do that is first of all to have a strong health response. You know, nobody in Melbourne is talking about economic recovery because there's no economic recovery in a lockdown. So what we have prioritised here is the health response. And then, we have made very significant commitments to economic recovery. I think \$6 billion has been announced by the Treasurer throughout this to get business up and operating and get people employed again. Things like unemployment assistance, things like JobSeeker and JobKeeper, well they are clearly the responsibilities of the Commonwealth and we would urge them to continue for so long as they are required to keep people in work, keep businesses open, support people throughout this. But I think it's very clear that the Queensland Government is playing our role both in the health and jobs response.

**REPORTER:**

Back to the protests – they've postponed it to next Saturday. Will you try to block that one too?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

We certainly will oppose these protests whenever they are planned and so I'm sure the police and the Attorney-General will seek... will use what powers that are available to them to stop it. But certainly our health advice, the Chief Health Officer's health advice, would continue to be that it's unsafe for people to breach the health directions.

**REPORTER:**

And at the borders we are still seeing heaps of confusion among the locals. Are you satisfied with the Government's messaging when it comes to who's allowed in?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look, every time we change these rules there are a period of time while people get to know them. A period of time while we implement them. But what we've seen each time is that over a few days that gets better and I would expect to see this get better. We've really listened to locals, Gold Coast locals, in developing these new arrangements. We've really listened to them and they are designed to minimise the impact, minimise the inconvenience of people who live and move around the border. That's why we've created the special pass. That's why we have reduced the other traffic so that police can swiftly allow X-Pass holders through and intercept everybody else to stop people sneaking around.

**REPORTER:**

Can you explain to us what did happen, you're understanding of what happened, to those postcodes that changed and are we likely to see anymore changes?



**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look, I understand there's been some small changes to the postcodes as we have seen how they will affect...how they are likely to affect particular areas. The intention was always to exclude the Byron Local Government Area and that's why one of those changes were made. But we've been making changes throughout this whole time as information has come to hand, as our knowledge of the virus changes and so changes could continue to be made. If we see cases further north we will need to make changes. And so anyone travelling across the border, we'd urge them to check the website just before they do to see how the rules apply to them at that particular point in time. Okay.

[ENDS]

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

Good morning everyone. So in really good news for Queensland, we've only had one new case, but it is an overseas acquired case in hotel quarantine. So, that is excellent news for Queensland and of course today was the very important day. You will hear from Dr Young very shortly, and of course those aged care restrictions will be lifted, which I know means a lot to the families, especially over the last week or so where they have not been able to go in and see their loved ones. So, excellent news and hopefully the news today will also give Queenslanders that added confidence especially as we head to the People's long weekend here in the south east, that people will go out, they'll support the tourism operators, they'll support the cafes and the restaurants and the businesses right across Queensland because everyone needs that help. So, hopefully that great news today will mean that Queenslanders will feel that they can go out and support each other as I know they will. I will hand over to the Deputy Premier, but we've also had 8549 tests over the last 24 hours, so thank you to all those Queenslanders who have come out and been tested and let me also reiterate, if you are sick, stay at home and get tested. We'll get through this together if we all work together and if we are all doing the right thing. So I will hand over to the Deputy Premier and then Dr Young and then, of course, our State Disaster Coordinator will update us on how things have been going over the weekend especially with the hard border closures that are now in place, and then we're happy to answer some questions. Thanks.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you Premier. That one additional case that we're reporting from quarantine, the returned traveller, brings our total number of cases now to 1089. They are being taken care of by our fantastic team at the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. That 8549 tests brings our total number of tests now to 677,000, but of course we would like to do more and so we would encourage Queenslanders to continue to come forward and get tested. As the Premier has said, that was a really good weekend for Queensland, a good result for us, it means we've avoided the risks of a wide-spread outbreak from those returning cases from Melbourne and it means that the Chief Health Officer can now act to lift those restrictions on aged care. Of course, that is in contrast to the rest of the country, it was Australia's deadliest weekend from COVID-19 and that is a reminder – should serve as a reminder to us all that the risks here are still real and they are close to home and that we continue – we need to continue to work

together to implement the restrictions that are in place so that we can keep Queensland safe from this awful disease. What is really important is that when people go out and about, when they visit businesses and they're asked to provide their contact details that they do so and that they do so accurately. We are seeing a small number of cases where people aren't providing useful contact information and that means there is a small number of outstanding contacts who we would like to be able to speak to. And so we would ask everyone when they do provide their contact information they ensure that it is contact information that will be useful to our contact tracers. Finally, we're getting lots of requests from people for special exemptions, particularly around the border restrictions, and I would like to emphasise that these are special arrangements that we've been able to put in place after feedback from local communities. They really are as far as we can go and if we were to see cases in northern New South Wales, we would have to adjust them, so I just urge people to be understanding, and understand that these are arrangements that we have put in place precisely to allow them to move about their communities while also keeping our state safe.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So one new case overnight in Queensland - a gentleman in hotel quarantine who acquired the infection overseas. So that is really good news, no community transmission in Queensland. So that means that we can safely reopen our aged care facilities to visitors again. With all the restrictions, of course, so we still need to be very cautious, very careful at all times, because our aged care facilities have the most vulnerable people in our society living in them. But we can go ahead. The one aged care facility that we can't open yet is that one in north Brisbane - at Pinjarra Hills. It needs to stay closed for another day and a half until we have confirmation that that potential outbreak is over. So this is really good news and this is because Queenslanders came forward in their droves and got tested. Please continue doing that. If anyone has any symptom at all, no matter how mild, please come forward and immediately get tested and isolate yourself. That is the way we will prevent this spreading through our state. If we can get the first case, not the fourth case or the 50th case, if we can get the first case of infection and stop those chains of transmission, we'll be able to manage it going forward. Also, I do ask people to maintain social distancing. Get out and about, that's really important, we can all go about our normal lives, but maintain social distancing wherever possible because we don't know where our next case will be. And, yes, we want to get it as quickly as we can through testing, but we also don't want to get that test, we don't want it spreading in the meantime, so it's really important that people maintain social distancing.

And then at the border - this is a really difficult part for Queensland. The border is difficult because people from New South Wales can travel into those New South Wales border areas and they can then pass on the infection if they have it, to someone who lives in that area who can then cross the border into Queensland. That is really difficult. So it is really important that all those people who live along our border, whether in Queensland or in New South Wales, think, "What is the next step?" If we have to close the border to everyone in New South Wales so that there are no exemptions for people who live in those border zones, who work or go to school in Queensland, if we have to close, then what will people do? I have already seen great examples of where people have managed it. They have swapped their lives, so at the moment they live one side, work the other, and a friend does the opposite - they're now moving so they can remain in one or the other. I think that every single person

who lives in any of those border communities, in either Queensland or New South Wales ,needs to think, "What will I do, what will my family do, if the border becomes closed because there are cases spreading north from Sydney?" At the moment the most northern cases in New South Wales are in Newcastle and we're keeping a very close eye whether there are cases coming further north and they will - because there is free movement, of course, within New South Wales. Thank you.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. If I could just start with some statistics around what's happened since 1:00am on Saturday morning with the new border restrictions. We have had 99 flights come into the state. Processed 4532 people through our airports, 197 of those were placed into quarantine and six were refused entry. On our roads we saw 9046 vehicles checked. 144 persons placed into quarantine and 506 people refused entry into the state. As we expected, it was pretty hectic on Friday night and into Saturday morning. But over the weekend we have seen the roads, in particular, ease and up to 10-minute delays on the M1 is what was being experienced typically. We have had to issue six penalty infringement notices for untruthful declarations of people trying to get into the state and of course they were refused entry into our state. I mentioned last week that we'd done compliance checking of people in home quarantine. It has continued. We have now checked 504 people and have seen - so well done to those people in quarantine and to Queenslanders - generally. 98.8 per cent compliance, to be precise. There are four matters that remain under investigation out of those checks and there has been two penalty infringement notices issued for people breaching quarantine. Also, good news - again, thank you to Queenslanders for doing the right thing. Across the state, 868 licensed premises were checked over the weekend and only one formal action - which was a caution, a warning for a Fortitude Valley licensed premises for not managing their lines well enough and that was worked through, so well done. We have currently have five matters under investigation including four out of quarantine. Our system has worked very well. There has been some delays in the number of - the road - sorry, border declaration pass passes. And we expect those to be resolved today with specialist passes coming online yesterday and the general pass should be up and running today. Overall the system is working as we would have expected.

**REPORTER:**

Just before you go, we had complaints from people who live in the Tweed but want to work in Brisbane and delays in getting exemptions. Will they be getting exemptions if they come to Brisbane to work?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOLLSCHESKI:**

At the moment they need to go on to the website. The Queensland Health website is very specific around which postcodes and which areas are included in the bubble for want of a better word. If they don't fit within that, they'll have to look at whether they have a specialist exemption and have to work through that process.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] I think what Lane maybe is talking about is for example tradies in those areas who say a bulk of our work is [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOLLSCHEWSKI:**

Jeanette is far more expert on the directions than I am. So happy to pass to her if she wants to answer any of those, but other than that, any other questions?

**REPORTER:**

But from your position as it stands at the moment...the way that things are...it's not being [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOLLSCHEWSKI:**

It's very clear. To go through the process, they have to get on to the site and they should be able to tell whether their address fits within the exempt area or not. If they don't fit within that exempt area, they must have another exemption, otherwise they're not getting a pass. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, about those border movements – so is there any leniency for someone, say for example construction workers who might live just over the border in New South Wales but they say the bulk of their work is in Brisbane – is there leniency for that?

**DR YOUNG:**

There is some class exemptions for fly in-fly out resources sector workers. They've been going since March and that's no different. For seasonal workers for fruit and vegetable picking, because they have COVID Safe plans that has been sorted out with industry. And for construction workers. Other than those three class exemption groups there aren't any. So people can apply for very specific personal exemptions if they're not in one of those class exemptions group. And I have given a number for this week to enable people to sort out what they're doing. For instance, a doctor lives here in Brisbane and works down south of Tweed so I've said she can remain in her house in Brisbane – can't go out into the community – travel down to the border, then travel down to work and then return and that's in place for a week while she sorts out what she needs to do long term. So there are those types and then we've been working with police and, again, they're going to sort out arrangements over the next week so that they can manage that. So at the moment if you live in those border communities you can travel between those border communities but you can't go any further. So you can't go any further south into New South Wales. You have to wait for 14 days after doing that before you can come into Queensland. You can't go any further north into Queensland other than the border community.

**REPORTER:**

Can you update us on the two women who came back from Melbourne infected and admitted to hospital? What is their status? When are they due out? What do they have to do to get out and also, their families I understand are still in quarantine in hotel?

**DR YOUNG:**

So they just have to go through the usual process which is to be tested and clear the virus and then we'll be able to...they'll be able to leave hospital. And then the same in the hotel quarantine, they have to do the 14 days and have a negative test at day 10.

**REPORTER:**

So I think that 14 days is due to end tomorrow?

**DR YOUNG:**

Very soon, yes.

**REPORTER:**

And the Logan women, are they still testing positive at the moment, do you know?

**DR YOUNG:**

I do but that's private information. So I can assure people that when they test negative they'll be able to leave the hospital.

**REPORTER:**

With the aged care facilities can you talk about when do those restrictions...when are they formally lifted and what's it going to mean? Does it mean that all of those areas that were designated as special areas go back to normal?

**DR YOUNG:**

As of midday today, remembering that I did put in some additional protections when I put all of that in place so all of those will need to continue but visitors can return as of midday today – if the aged care facility is ready to accept visitors of course.

**REPORTER:**

What are those extra protections that will [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Increased personal protective equipment. Requiring staff to work as much as possible only in one site because traditionally a lot of aged care workers work across multiple sites. So although I haven't mandated that yet I've requested it and we're working with the Commonwealth. Because remember, these are private aged care facilities, so the Commonwealth has to be involved.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, and the Premier might want to address this, what sort of risk has the Broncos breaches and the NRL breaches...put the whole season into doubt?

**DR YOUNG:**

That'll be up to the NRL to sort through but yes, there have been a number of breaches that potentially does put the season at risk.

**REPORTER:**

Do you have to re-evaluate that though? Because you've given them permission to operate under those plans. If they're breaching those plans, do you have a role in re-evaluating them or anything?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. They let me know about every single breach and what they've done as a result of that breach and so they've put in some very firm penalties. And I hope that means it works.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm satisfied that management is dealing with this very, very seriously. I'm not satisfied that the players understand the seriousness.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can we get you on a couple of things?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah sure. And just on that too – just about...the NRL and the different codes, the different teams have to act swiftly when these breaches happen. So I'm pretty confident that swift action will be taken.

**REPORTER:**

It's pretty frustrating through?

**PREMIER:**

Incredibly frustrating because Queenslanders are doing the right thing and this puts at risk all the great work that Queenslanders have done. So every code that is here in Queensland has signed up to an industry plan and the players must do the right thing.

**REPORTER:**

The Isaac Regional Mayor is concerned about FIFO workers who are flying, do you have [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, look I'm in constant contact with Anne Baker, the Mayor, and I know she's having regular conversations with the Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham. But they have industry plans and we are comfortable with the industry plans that are in place.

**REPORTER:**

On what the Chief Health Officer was saying before about the cases spreading up through New South Wales. They're in Newcastle now. From the way that she was talking it seems like it is a real possibility that that border bubble could be...

**PREMIER:**

Well let me assure Queenslanders – we monitor the situation every single day and as soon as we have concerns, and the Chief Health Officer has concerns, that there is risk to Queensland in those border communities they will not have any exemptions. So at the moment we expect everyone to do the right thing. And it is going to be tough for a lot of businesses. It is going to be tough on a lot of people because there are limited exemptions. And there are limited exemptions to keep Queenslanders safe. That's why there are limited exemptions. So we will monitor very closely. There are some reports in New South Wales of untraceable community transmission. That is of deep concern to us and we'll be monitoring it very, very closely.

**REPORTER:**

Will the Government step in again regarding the protest planned this weekend? Will you be taking more action?

**PREMIER:**

Absolutely. Absolutely. The Attorney-General also took very swift action in relation to those planned protests. There is a big community risk if people are gathering in large numbers such as a protest. Of course, everyone respects the right to protest but in a pandemic and especially if there is no consultation happen, it is of course very hard for this to go ahead. Alright?

**REPORTER:**

Was there any problems with social distancing on the Sunny Coast this weekend...oh last weekend again? Was it better this weekend?

**PREMIER:**

I'll find out for you Patrick. I'm not aware of that at the moment.

**REPORTER:**

There's a bit of talk about the Chief Health Officer being Queensland of the Year next year. Have you put forward a nomination for Australian of the Year nominee or something like that? Queensland Greats?

**PREMIER:**

Well as soon as...when those nominations open Queenslanders can go right ahead and make those nominations so it's up to the public to do that. I might leave it at, how's that sound? Okay, thanks everyone. Got to get to Cabinet now. Thank you.

[ENDS]





Released under RTI - DPC

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young and Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 17 August 2020

Duration: 14 minutes

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

In more good news for Queensland, overnight, zero new cases and I do want to congratulate every single Queenslander for the great job that you are doing, because if it wasn't for our collective effort, this would not be happening, so that is wonderful news. We only have eight active cases, so our total confirmed cases stands at 1691 and the number of tests that have been conducted in the last 24 hours is 2519. So there has been no evidence of community transmission in Queensland now for 28 days. This is great news, but of course it rests on every single Queenslander, if you are sick, stay at home and get tested, keep up the social distancing and the good hand hygiene and we will get through it. I also just wanted to say a big thank you to Queensland families for getting out over the People's Long Weekend and supporting our businesses and tourism sector across the south east and hopefully with the September school holidays, people can get out and support more of regional Queensland. Well done everyone, it is great to see the terrific effort that every single Queenslander is putting in to keep Queenslanders safe. I will hand over to the Deputy Premier.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Of those eight cases of COVID-19 that remain active in Queensland, just three are in hospital. In the last fortnight we've confirmed two new cases, in the fortnight before that we confirmed 12. It has now been 16 days since a known infectious case has been in the community. Things are, at this stage, going very, very well in Queensland.

### **DR YOUNG:**

No new cases in Queensland overnight, which is excellent. It means though, that we have to be even more careful with anyone coming into Queensland from a hotspot, which today is all of Victoria and New South Wales, although people in those strict border zone areas can travel into Queensland, and anyone from overseas. So, it is really important that that is managed as it has been to date. Also, it is very important, we don't know where the next case might pop up. We hope there won't be any that we don't know about, we hope that all cases are in quarantine, but it is still really important that anyone who becomes unwell gets tested for COVID and isolates themselves immediately. That way, if we get on top of the first case we will stop a cluster happening and we will stop the broader consequences. So, anyone who is

unwell, stay home, isolate and get immediately tested. Everyone does need to maintain that habit of social distancing and don't go to places where there are more cases. Thank you.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Morning everyone. As you've heard, in a great space but a busy weekend – busy long weekend – that we've had. 132 flights came into the state, 7230 passengers were processed, 19 were refused entry and 740 placed into quarantine. At our road borders, we saw 8861 vehicles intercepted, 594 people turned around, so we're still seeing large numbers of people trying to get into the state cannot lawfully do so at the moment. So, a message to everyone from interstate, as you've heard from the Chief Health Officer, is that if you're coming out of Victoria, New South Wales or the ACT, it is a hotspot and unless you have an exemption, you will not be allowed into the state. On those road borders we quarantined 27 persons. We currently have 3227 persons in hotel quarantine in the state. Over the weekend, we inspected 605 licensed premises across the state and only formal warning to a premises, to a venue, in Townsville was given. Overall, very good compliance, lower numbers attending but we're still seeing lack of social distancing by some patrons and our police officers and Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation personnel are having to intervene and tell people what to do and remind them too constantly. So the message to the community is to please practice your social distancing at all times. In that period over the long weekend, we've had 14 on the spot fines issued, nine of which were for false declarations for people trying to get across the border and one other border breach.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, you might be best to answer this. We had a phone call from a Queensland nurse returning from Victoria who arrived with the right forms, rather than being placed in quarantine she was turned around. Do you know why that might be?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I am not aware of that individual case. It would seem unusual to me, if people have the right pass to come back in, and obviously there are a number of different exemptions they could have, particularly a nurse returning if they've been working there. Certainly we'd like to know the details though, if there was any issues, but I'm not aware of that one.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, those 500-odd people, what are they doing? Are they travelling up from somewhere, are they on holiday? Why are they... [inaudible].

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

These are all people driving into our state, or coming to our state without the proper exemptions – so they don't have an X-Pass or an S-Pass or an F-Pass. We're still seeing people turn up at our road borders with G-Passes, you won't get in on those at the moment. So, make sure they have the right passes, there's either an irregularity in their pass and they're not allowed in, or they're just simply coming out of a hotspot and they're not going to be permitted entry, those people are still trying to get in.

**REPORTER:**

And they just haven't seen the messaging, or they think [inaudible].

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I think it is all of the above. There is a whole raft of different reasons why people are doing this, but fortunately our officers are being vigilant and we're finding large numbers like that and turning them around.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No, this was where a breach of directions but not a high level one, this is where people... we work with the licensed venues and if it appears that they're trying to do the right thing but they've made an error, they will be given a warning for it and that was the instance in that one.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, how come confident are you that Queensland will secure the AFL grand final?

**PREMIER:**

We are not talking about that yet. Once Victoria makes their decision, the AFL, the national body makes their decision, but we are having some close talks behind the scenes.

**REPORTER:**

Would you be pretty annoyed if we missed out?

**PREMIER:**

Well, we are going to work very closely behind the scenes and if the decision is made for it not to be held in Melbourne, Queensland has hosted the bulk of the competition and I'd hope that people living in Victoria would also support Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

We've heard a number of complaints from people in quarantine at the Next Hotel – which is the old Lennons – about not being fed... either bad food and not being fed on time. If they're paying for their own way, doesn't the hotel have a responsibility to provide decent meals?

**PREMIER:**

Absolutely, I think the hotel needs to step up if there are complaints, just as if anyone else was staying in a hotel across Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Just back on the AFL, would the government be willing to put money on the table to host the grand final?

**PREMIER:**

We're not at that stage at the moment. Like I said, we need the AFL to make their decision, and this is a very tough decision because let's face it, it has never left Victoria, but Queensland does stand ready, willing and able to host if it is unable to be hosted in Victoria.

**REPORTER:**

Jacinda Ardern has put her election back four weeks, there is no chance that we're going to...

**PREMIER:**

No intention of delaying the election at all. No intention.

**REPORTER:**

The situation in Queensland a little bit more favourable now. How much is that playing to your decision with reopening the borders, or is it purely [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Let me make it very clear: we will always put Queenslanders first, we will put the safety of Queenslanders first and we are not... we do not have any intentions of opening any borders whilst there is community transmission active in Victoria and in New South Wales.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, just on the long weekend. The Bruce Highway was a bit of carpark coming back to Brisbane...

**PREMIER:**

That sounds like normal for a long weekend.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

There is a lot of money that is going into the upgrade of the Bruce Highway, right up and down the length and breadth of the Bruce Highway, it is progressively being rolled out. But of course, the Sunshine Coast is an incredibly popular tourist destination, but also too, we have more housing and everything going in to those areas, especially around that Caloundra South area. So as more and more residents are moving into those areas, of course we need to keep up with the infrastructure, and that is exactly what we're doing.

**REPORTER:**

Would your government introduce shield laws to protect journalists from [inaudible] their sources?

**PREMIER:**

I would have to talk to the Attorney-General about that. You can talk to the Attorney-General.

**REPORTER:**

Minister Miles, can I just ask you about [inaudible] in hospitals, how common is it and how many staff have been disciplined and or stood down?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Obviously, all of our hospitals monitor very closely their medications, especially those that are drugs of addiction. I understand that in the material that was reported on today and released recently by Metro North and Metro South. Only one occasions was referred to the CCC, that was because all of the others, once investigated, had appropriate cause, for example liquid drugs that are drawn in case they are needed, but were not needed or drugs that were spilled and spoiled and therefor had to be redrawn.

**REPORTER:**

Deputy Premier, I understand there has been some issues with transplant retrieval teams getting organs out of Victoria, given the situation there and having exemptions, getting in and out, have you heard anything about that infringement?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

There is an exemption for transplant teams, but if you don't mind, I might ask the Chief Health Officer to answer that.

**DR YOUNG:**

There are no issues in Queensland...and I understand that some other states have had some concerns, but right from the word go in Queensland we've allowed organ and tissue retrieval teams to travel freely between Victoria, New South Wales, A.C.T and Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young when asked about New South Wales last week you gave some indications [inaudible] that [inaudible] Where is the situation at now? Is it likely that that border bubble might be cut off? [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Things were no worse today than the were a week ago which is very, very good news and we hope that New South Wales will be able to manage all of their cases so that they get back to a situation where there's no community transmission.

**REPORTER:**

The metric that you were using earlier this year was to have two incubation periods with no community transmission cases – is that still the same sort of timeframe that you have got in your mind at the moment?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, that definitely is.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

A couple of more and then...

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Well the legislation there is about stopping wage theft, so I think that's really important. We've seen very clear examples of employers exploiting employees so it would be great to have that legislation passed.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Well it's going through committees so people can have their say there. Last one.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Correct.

**REPORTER:**

There's still a long way from that [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

Absolutely. I mean, I think we are going to continue to see restrictions in Victoria, I think it's up until around Christmas time – that's very unfortunate for people living down there but it's a serious situation. You only have to look at what's happening around the world and we definitely don't want to see that happen here. So my job was to keep this state safe, and I just want to re-assure Queenslanders we have an absolutely committed team including the Deputy Premier, the Chief Health Officer, Deputy Commissioner and our Commissioner, and all of our Directors General and Ministers are absolutely focussed on this. So we have tried and tested management team that has been established, the way in which we deal with cyclones, bushfires and floods. And that will continue.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

I just want to thank them for the great work they've done, and we applaud them. Thanks everyone, you can all get out of the cold now.



[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DPC



Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles and Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young

Date: 18 August 2020

Duration: 23 minutes 40 seconds

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

In further good news for Queensland, we can report zero overnight cases of COVID, this is excellent news. We always love these zero days, and once again a big thank you to Queenslanders for absolutely doing the right thing. Our total number of active cases is zero and the number of tests conducted in the last 24 hours is 7728. Today, I just want to reassure Queenslanders that we are doing absolutely everything we need to do in case we do have a COVID outbreak, and what you're seeing here today behind me is our shield against COVID. We are making sure that we have the PPE stockpiles that we need in case we were to see an outbreak. From the outset, can I thank Dr Young, because Dr Young was preparing and planning for an eventual pandemic long before the pandemic hit our shores, so Queensland was well prepared way back at the end of January-early February when we actually started to get some of our stockpiles. What you see here today is a brand-new warehouse, it is being expanded, we are doubling our capacity and we have capacity on 10,000 crates of PPE here in this facility. I am also very pleased it is in my electorate as well, so thank you Deputy Premier. What we know is that we have to plan for the future, we have to plan just in case and this our defence, this is our shield against COVID. So, just to give you an idea, we had planned around 9000 square metres of stockpiles, we are doubling that capacity just here and the Deputy Premier will talk about our expansion across Queensland as well into some other regional centres. So this facility stores 120 million pieces of PPE and the expansion means we can store 180 million pieces. Together, with our distribution centres we have 900 days' worth of surgical masks, 200 days' worth of medical gowns, 300 days' worth of gloves permanently on hand, and that is stage one. Stage two is to manufacture more of this equipment in Queensland, and that is already underway. You may recall a few months ago we went down to Evolve, they are just getting their federal accreditation to be able to do mask manufacturing in Queensland, and that means more jobs for Queenslanders. Of course, some of the equipment comes from other places overseas, but I want to see Queensland have the capacity also to produce some of the equipment here, and that is exactly what we are doing by backing local manufacturers like Evolve. I will hand over to the Deputy Premier and then Dr Young and then we're happy to take some questions.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thanks so much, Premier. Throughout 2020, Queensland's healthcare workers have had our backs and today is all about making sure we have theirs. I can't tell you how excited I am to be here at this facility and sharing with you the work that we have done to expand our critical

supply stockpile. When I think about the nights I've lost sleep throughout this pandemic, so many of them were about the potential shortage of protective equipment. I wanted to make sure that our staff were safe and felt safe every single day, and I wanted to make sure that they could continue to treat Queenslanders. Of course, nationally we had to suspend elective surgery, we had to suspend many procedures, we had to suspend a lot of oral healthcare because we were concerned that nationally there was not enough protective equipment, and we resolved, the Premier and I and the government resolved that never again should our healthcare staff have to worry about having the equipment they need to keep themselves safe. Never again should a doctor have to worry if there'll be a surgical mask available for them, never again should a nurse have to worry if there'll be gloves in his or her size, and that is precisely what this is all about. The Chief Health Officer already had one of the country's biggest stockpiles of masks and that kept us safe during this pandemic. But what we want to do is so much more than that, we want to make as much equipment here in Queensland as we can, we want to keep it here, we want to have it ready if there is COVID outbreak, if there is some other reason why global supply chains are disrupted, and of course, one day there'll be another pandemic and we want to be prepared for that. As the Premier outlined, we now have more than 100 days of most lines of equipment that we need. This new, giant storage site will allow us to buy in bulk, will allow us to more creatively procure, will allow us to provide support to local manufacturers so that they know that they will have a purchaser for their product. But I hope, that most importantly it gives our healthcare staff confidence, confidence to know that we have the equipment that they need to do their job, they do not need to lose sleep at all over the availability of protective equipment because we have this giant resource, this giant critical supply reserve standing behind them that we will continue to expand upon. There is some fantastic technology that sits behind this, most of this equipment has expiry dates, needs to be rotated to ensure that it isn't expiring, that it is always in date. Prior to COVID, we would hold on hand \$15-20 million worth of stock. We now have \$110 million worth of stock, roughly \$60 million worth here at this site alone, and of course we intend to continue to fill it. We took this space, we got the keys to this space just two months ago, they expanded space just behind you a few weeks ago and it will continue to be stocked. I want to personally thank Barbara Phillips and her team, they have done just an incredible job delivering on this vision of ensuring that we have the reserves that we need for whatever might come at us.

**DR YOUNG:**

No new cases of COVID-19 in Queensland overnight, which is excellent news. And thank you to the more than 5000 Queenslanders who went and got tested yesterday, that is so important, it is just critical that we find the first case in a chain of transmission, not the 20<sup>th</sup> case when it makes it much harder to deal with, so that is excellent. To all Queenslanders, if you develop any symptoms of any sort, please come forward immediately and get tested and isolate yourself. Also, it is still important to maintain social distancing, so to minimise the impact if there were a case and also don't go to places where there are high numbers of cases. This warehouse here today is a fantastic initiative, it has been put together by a great team of staff who have worked solidly over the last many months since this pandemic was announced, to source the PPE needed to keep everyone in our health system safe so that they could treat patients. That has been fantastic and I also commend Barbara Phillips, standing over there, and thank her for leading this work and the great team that have done all this, it is

not easy to go out and find all the equipment that is needed in a time when there is a world-wide shortage. This will stand us in good stead going forwards. Also, of course, for the money that has been put aside to fund this is critical, it means that that resource is there and it is there as we go forward.

**PREMIER:**

Any questions?

**REPORTER:**

Premier, how much will be made in Australia and how much are we sourcing from overseas?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah look, a lot of it is sourced from overseas, but we are now turning our attention to manufacturing in Queensland. Okay? So there are some specifics that cannot be manufactured here. We know that. But we now have this fantastic stockpile. And let's not forget, when the pandemic first happened, countries' resources were stretched to the limit. Everyone can remember those images of doctors and nurses scrambling to get whatever protective equipment they could. What I want to reassure all of our health workers is that we have planned for the future. A lot of detailed planning has gone into this, and as you can see – a brand new facility here. This is not the distribution centre, this is just a storage facility. So there is a lot more in Queensland, but this is about keeping Queenslanders safe and it's an extra shield against COVID.

**REPORTER:**

What type of items can we make here in Queensland [inaudible] manufacturing [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so we are looking through all that at the moment. But like I said to you, we went down just recently and looked at Evoive, and they are just getting their accreditation now to do the surgical masks.

**REPORTER:**

Can you tell us about the letter the Prime Minister has written to yourself and other premiers? What's in that letter and what does it mean to you?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah look, the Prime Minister has written to all premiers. We only just received that letter. It is a very generic letter, and of course we're happy to have further discussions at National Cabinet.

**REPORTER:**

So does it raise any issues about transport and freight and movement of freight and that sort of thing?

**PREMIER:**

It's just a very generic letter. It talks about health, it talks about... well freight, we have a national agreement about freight and about the testing of drivers. And in relation to health, we want the best healthcare for all Australians no matter where they live. We know New South Wales residents have hospitals located close to where they are. But if there are extenuating circumstances and whether they're on other sides of the border, of course the Chief Health Officers will speak to ensure that that person gets the best critical care.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, we're aware of a woman from Ballina who required an emergency caesarean but wasn't allowed to cross the border and see her doctor at Gold Coast University Hospital. She had to be flown to Sydney and almost lost the baby. Isn't there room for flexibility and compassion in those circumstances?

**PREMIER:**

Lane, these decisions are made by health professionals. They're not made by politicians, they're not made by premiers. I'm more than happy if you want to talk to Dr Young about the specifics of that case, but where there is critical care, the doctors will make those critical decisions. They are not for politicians to make those decisions.

**REPORTER:**

But don't they make those critical decisions based on the guidelines set out by politicians?

**PREMIER:**

Well, there are... you have to understand too, like, people living in New South Wales, they have New South Wales hospitals. In Queensland, we have Queensland hospitals for our people. So if there are specific issues, I'm quite sure that the clinicians will make the best decisions based on the evidence that they have before them. They're not the decisions we make.

**REPORTER:**

But her specialist was the Queensland doctor.

**PREMIER:**

I don't know the specifics of that case. I'm happy to ask Dr Young to get more details for you. Do you have any details on that, Jeannette?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't have the details of that case. Of course, I'll need to know their name and so forth. But I can tell you the standard. If any hospital in Queensland accepts a patient from another state because they believe that's essential for the care of that patient than an exemption is given.

**REPORTER:**

A sort of similar case. There was a woman south of the border whose new born baby had to come here to Queensland and the parents are saying they're not allowed to come to

Queensland to be with the newborn baby. Do you know anything about that? Have you got details?

**DR YOUNG:**

Again, they need to put in an exemption. And there has not been any refusal. So they just need to put an exemption in through the health directions website, and that's then assessed, and if a child was in Queensland whose parents were elsewhere then of course we'd allow the parents in.

**REPORTER:**

And would they have to go into quarantine if they came to Queensland or could they go and be with their newborn straight away?

**DR YOUNG:**

Virtually anyone who comes into Queensland must go into quarantine, but there are exemptions to allow people to leave quarantine. So they need to wear PPE, they need to go to a facility where they can be supervised in terms of their interaction because of course we don't want them to potentially spread COVID to other patients who are in that facility.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any update on the Buderim nursing home?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So four individuals were tested in that nursing home – three results have come back and they're all negative. We're still waiting on the fourth result, but we understand that fourth patient hasn't had any new symptoms – it's just been a continuation of their normal illness, and they're being tested so I'd suspect it'll be negative, but it's very, very good to see what the aged care facility did, that they went ahead and tested those four people.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, just on the exemptions again. Has the number of applications for exemptions gone up since the harder border has come into play, and what is the average wait time for an exemption to be given?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, the number of exemption requests has gone up, and it depends on what the exemption is for. So some people have an urgent reason to come into Queensland, like some of the things we've just discussed now, for other people it's a more delayed reason. So it depends on what the request is for.

**REPORTER:**

And are they all still coming across your desk or have you had to delegate some of these?

**DR YOUNG:**

At the moment, they are still coming across my desk, but we are working out a process given the large numbers as to how to manage that.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can we just ask about the... there was another protest rally this morning, can we just get your thoughts on that and what your message to those people would be?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so... look, during COVID, we don't want to see large gatherings of people. We've made that very clear. My understanding is the police advice was that they did apply for a permit. I haven't had any further details about that.

**REPORTER:**

Is it disappointing to see groups still coming out, though?

**PREMIER:**

Well we're allowed to have gatherings of 100 people in our homes. I don't know how large that gathering was. I'm hearing it wasn't a very large gathering. Their issues are with the Federal Government, and I urge them to take up their issues with their elected federal representatives.

**REPORTER:**

Premier it's been six months since the tragedy at Camp Hill and we're yet to see the Government introduce any legislation to prevent a similar tragedy happening again, what's your long term plan?

**PREMIER:**

In relation to what specific recommendations?

**REPORTER:**

Through to the domestic violence orders.

**PREMIER:**

Yeah look, we've got some of the strongest prevention of domestic and family violence laws in the country. We will always be looking at doing more, and that's why we have a specialist taskforce that is headed up – it's a permanent taskforce that is headed up by Bob Atkinson and Kay McGrath.

**REPORTER:**

When are we going to see some legislation introduced though?

**PREMIER:**

Well, we don't have any specific legislation at the moment.

**REPORTER:**

What about the stuff the LNP has introduced in relation to, like, trackers and strangulation?

**PREMIER:**

We've already got the laws in for strangulation. I'm happy to get more information for you, I do not have that on-hand at the moment.

**REPORTER:**

And you previously said you'd work in a bipartisan way on this. Have you had a meeting with the Opposition Leader yet?

**PREMIER:**

They're more than happy to have meetings with the relevant Minister, as they are having with Child Safety.

**REPORTER:**

So you haven't sat down with the Opposition Leader to try to figure out a way to tackle this?

**PREMIER:**

But there's been no request from them.

**REPORTER:**

But you're the Premier. You're the leader. Why can't you reach out to the Opposition...

**PREMIER:**

Sorry, we have a taskforce that is set up that is made up a whole different stakeholders that are united on this, and then they make recommendations to us, and I'm more than happy to talk to the Minister about it.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, just on shield laws. Are you personally concerned that Queensland is the only state in Australia that doesn't have shield laws for journalists?

**PREMIER:**

Look, we're happy to look at that as I said the other day.

**REPORTER:**

What do you make of the Opposition's plans to refer that to the...

**PREMIER:**

Well the last time the Opposition was in office, they wanted journalists sacked and they abused journalists walking down the street.

**REPORTER:**

But what do you make of that plan to refer it to the Queensland Law Reform Commission? Would your Government commit to doing the same thing?

**PREMIER:**

The Attorney-General is happy to look at it. I said that yesterday.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can I just quickly ask you sorry about the letter that you sent the Federal Parliament yesterday. What's it going to mean? What do you want from MPs who are going down to Canberra? What's going to happen when they come back if they go?

**DR YOUNG:**

So MPs who go down to Canberra, when they come back will be required to quarantine for 14 days on return, however they can do that in their own home if it's suitable for that purpose, given that this is an essential requirement for them to go to Canberra.

**REPORTER:**

And they will just have to let you know that they will be quarantining at their home, or something like that?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Update on the situation, the bulk carrier up in Townsville, I think now. I know all of the crew members have been tested. Are they retested? Are they allowed to disembark? What's the situation now?

**DR YOUNG:**

So they have to remain in quarantine on the carrier until they've been there for 14 days, and they'll get tested again on day 10.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, can I check, with those MPs, if they quarantine in their own homes, what happens to their families? Can their families be there with them at the same time?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Well how does that work if their families are going out into the public?

**DR YOUNG:**

Because they're not a case. So until you become a case then you can interact in your family, but if they were to become a case, then everyone who lives in that household would then have to go into quarantine.

**REPORTER:**



Premier, just on the shield laws you said the Attorney-General would look at. What do you mean by that? How would she look at that?

**PREMIER:**

Well she will look at any recommendations about it.

**REPORTER:**

Has she received any recommendations?

**PREMIER:**

No, she hasn't.

**REPORTER:**

What's she going to look at then?

**PREMIER:**

She will look at the principle of it.

**REPORTER:**

Longer term, when we look at New Zealand for example, evidence that perhaps eradication in the long term is some sort of [inaudible] in that case, there is no vaccine long term [inaudible] do you need to prepare Queenslanders that they will be shut off from other states indefinitely?

**PREMIER:**

I think what we need to make sure that Queenslanders are practicing their social distancing, that is absolutely important, they need to keep doing their good hand hygiene and they need to follow the COVID Safe Plans that industry has put in place, such as making sure that you leave your details, your contact details if you are going to a restaurant or a café so that in the case where there needs to be rapid contact tracing, we can do that rapid contact tracing. These are the things that all Queenslanders need to do to keep Queensland safe.

**REPORTER:**

But if there is no vaccine, and cases albeit in small numbers continue in the southern states...

**PREMIER:**

I don't have a crystal ball. I mean you listen to people from the Doherty Institute say they work in a two week proposition here, we have to look as far to the future as we can, but I think what Queenslanders can sense that they can go about their daily lives, they can go to work, they can conduct their business – which is not the case in other parts around the world – and my priority is to keep Queensland as open for Queensland as much as possible during these times. That is why National Cabinet is very important, where we discuss the situation in all the different states and territories, but Queensland is not alone, we are not the only state that has borders closed off. They've got those in other states as well, and territories, and what you have seen is where those states have hard border closures, we do not have a large number

of cases. In fact, it has been now 29 days since there has been any community transmission here in Queensland, and that is because of Queenslanders.

**REPORTER:**

Given the relatively low numbers in New South Wales – I think it is three new ones today – would you expect the borders to New South Wales and the ACT to be open for Victoria?

**PREMIER:**

My understanding, Lane, is that they just declared the City of Sydney a hotspot, my understanding is that there was a detection of someone – I think Channel Nine just reported it – that there was, I think it might have been at the markets, and there's been a couple of other cases. So look, we are still very concerned about New South Wales and of course we are watching very closely if there is any movement of cases detected in northern New South Wales. It is absolutely critical that we keep on top of that, and as I said, we talk about that every single day about what is happening in other states.

**REPORTER:**

Would you expect the borders to New South Wales be open before Victoria, before Christmas?

**PREMIER:**

I can't make those decisions. That is looking too far down – I know people want certainty, but we can't give that certainty when the situation is currently evolving and changing. And as you are seeing, there are more hotspots, being added in New South Wales. They've had cases in Newcastle, so that is something that we're monitoring. But the situation in Victoria, of course, is very concerning, very concerning to everyone in Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

An indefinite border closure, particularly with Victoria, is a possibility [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

We hope that Victoria gets their numbers under control, their cases under control.

**REPORTER:**

But if they don't, is that something [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

I can't deal in hypotheticals. I will make the decisions in the best interests of Queenslanders to keep Queenslanders safe. That is the thing that I have to do.

**REPORTER:**

And just to clarify, back on domestic violence, has the taskforces...

**PREMIER:**

If you have got specific questions, I am more than happy to talk to you about those and get the information from the Minister for Domestic and Family Violence.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] the doing a presser this afternoon.

**PREMIER:**

I know, and I have met with them and it was absolutely horrific what happened to Hannah and her children. I went to the funeral, it was awful, okay? We don't want to see that happen again. It is very upsetting and anything we can do to help, we will do.

**REPORTER:**

I just think that Queenslanders want to know that the government have plans on this.

**PREMIER:**

We had all the recommendations from Quentin Bryce, we acted on that, we implemented all those recommendations. We have some of the strongest, most robust laws in the nation, if we can do more, of course we will look at doing more, okay?

**REPORTER:**

Just on the pandemic leave for health workers, do you know how many days they'll have?

**PREMIER:**

No, not at the moment. Thank you.

[ENDS]

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young and Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 19 August 2020

Duration: 23 minutes 50 seconds

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*E&OE*

**PREMIER:**

In good news for Queensland, we've only had one new case but it is in hotel quarantine, so we have absolutely no concerns about that case and we only now have six active cases in Queensland. So, well done to Queensland, a great job and keep up this wonderful effort. In the last 24 hours, we've had close to 10,000 tests, so again that is really, really good news. In relation to... we've actually expanded some of the postcodes around the Goondiwindi region, this has been a request that has come in from the local council, and I want to thank the Chief Health Officer and the Deputy premier for acting very swiftly. These are very small numbers of people, and of course it is just to make that movement between those border communities a little bit easier. We are continuing to work with people when it comes to their health concerns, but also too when it comes to the movement of agriculture, we've got very strong industry plans in place there and of course these issues will be further discussed at National Cabinet on Friday. I will hand over to the Deputy Premier and the Chief Health Officer and then we're happy to take some questions.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you Premier. That one new case is a male aged 40-49 who returned from Papua New Guinea, is currently in quarantine. They tested positive on their seventh day of quarantine and are being managed by the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. As the Premier mentioned, we are making some small adjustments to the border zone around Goondiwindi as a result of feedback from Mayor Springborg, and I thank him for working with our Chief Health Officer. Also, today our world-leading researchers passed a new milestone in the search for a vaccine. The University of the Sunshine Coast is leading Queensland's part of the clinical trials for a vaccine developed by US vaccine manufacturer NovaVax, and I congratulate them on their leadership there. Any Queenslanders wanting to participate in those trials who is aged between 18 and 84, and is a non-smoker, can visit the website [usc.edu.au](http://usc.edu.au) and register to participate in those trials and to help with the global ways to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

**DR YOUNG:**

One new case in Queensland overnight, another case in hotel quarantine which is where I hope all of our cases are found. That means that he hasn't been in contact with anyone out in

the community. He recently returned from Papua New Guinea and we know there are increasing numbers of cases in Papua New Guinea, so we are working very closely with the border force to manage our northern border that we do have with Papua New Guinea. It is really important though, that although we don't want to have cases in the community, the best way to manage this is to pick up the first case if there are any in the community, so please thank you to every single one of those Queenslanders in the last 24 hours who came forward and got tested. It is really important to keep doing that. So we have very, very little flu in our community at the moment, we had eight cases last week. So in actual fact, if you've got flu-like symptoms, you are just as likely to have COVID-19 as you are to have the flu, so it is very important if you have any symptoms at all to immediately come forward, get tested and isolate yourself until you get that result. Thank you.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. If I could just share with you some statistics first of all. In the last 24 hours we have processed 28 flights that have come into our state domestically. That has included 1945 passengers that have been processed. We did not refuse entry to any persons, however 88 were placed into quarantine. At our road borders, 3939 vehicle were intercepted, 181 persons were refused entry and 110 were placed into quarantine. We have seen an increase in the numbers going into quarantine across our road borders, and that is directly related to our work to streamline the ability of people to come into this state for medical treatment. There were some issues with that, we have worked on that and we have a system in place that allows us, until there can be a longer-term solution, to allow those people in based on evidence to receive their medical treatment, but there is conditions in terms of that entry, including quarantine that may be imposed on them. We are continuing to see people doing the wrong thing, and if I can just highlight a couple that have occurred recently. We had a person last week that attempted to enter the state through the Tugun Bypass, was refused entry and then entered on the wrong side of the road. Police have tracked that person down and they have been issued with a \$4000 fine. Similarly we've see people, in the past, who have failed to abide with the Chief Health Officer's directions, and back in April who was issued one day with a on-the-spot fine for having too many people at their residence, in excess of what was permitted, the next day police attended for the same reason and that person was given a notice to appear. That person appeared in court yesterday in Caboolture and was sentenced to two months imprisonment. I am highlighting that because there are serious consequences for people not abiding by the Chief Health Officer's directions, and that includes our border crossings, and more broadly, and we as the police service will continue to take enforcement action where we can identify this happening. That is very important because Queensland is in a very good state when it comes to community transmission – we're not getting it – and that is because we are keeping our borders secure and people are abiding by the rules, we can't afford to have those that want to take matters into their own hand. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, given Queensland is in an okay position at the moment, is there any consideration of relaxing some of those [inaudible] that were brought back in a few weeks ago, like for

example when you're in a bar or at a pub or something, having to be seated to have a drink, that sort of thing?

**PREMIER:**

Not at the moment, we need to keep our measures in place. Industries have COVID Safe Plans, but this is about the safety of Queenslanders. So, we do know there is active community transmission in New South Wales and in Victoria, and we've seen what has happened over in New Zealand. So, we have to make sure that people are following the rules, that we have COVID Safe Plans in place and that Queenslanders can actually go out and support Queenslanders, that is absolutely fundamental to me at this point in time.

**REPORTER:**

And is the fear that if you allow people to be standing up, for example, what is [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

It is the natural instinct for people to actually congregate together and what we need is to make sure that people are practicing that social distancing and are seated.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

We are having discussions at the moment about Schoolies, we are in discussions with the Mayor Tom Tate, I met with him recently on the Gold Coast and we will consider to look at all options around that. But we can not see mass gatherings, so we are working through all feasible options and we'll come back to you on that.

**REPORTER:**

Do you concede there should be a little more compassion shown for people, cancer sufferers especially, who are placed into home quarantine rather than home isolation? We've had a number of cases trying to get to hospital for treatment.

**PREMIER:**

I think we should listen to Dr Young when it comes to that. These are the medical experts that will make these decisions, and of course every decision is a tough decision. Everyone knows someone who has gone through cancer treatment or going through cancer treatment, this is really difficult decisions for families that are not together during this time. But I think Dr Young has a very good approach to this, working with the families, but quarantine is there to protect Queenslanders. Quarantine is being utilised in other states as well, it is not just unique to Queensland. I am happy for Dr Young to address that a little but further.

**DR YOUNG:**

There are some reasons that you can leave hotel quarantine, and one of them is to access healthcare. So anyone who is in hotel quarantine and they need healthcare can leave that hotel quarantine. It means that the facility that they go to must treat them as if they had COVID-19,

so they need to make sure that no one else in the facility is at risk of getting COVID infection from that person, but yes there is processes in place now.

**REPORTER:**

So no excuses for not letting people go home into self-isolation?

**DR YOUNG:**

People need to complete the 14 days in hotel quarantine before they can go home, especially as a lot of people go home, we know, to households that have got vulnerable people in them. So, it is very important that we protect the other people in that household. You would've seen in Victoria, that initially with their second wave all of those cases were actually happening in the household, so we know households are a very high risk in terms of contracting infection. You would've seen in our three young women who went down to Melbourne, one of the first cases in Queensland was one of those infecting a household member. So households are really high risk, that is why we need people to quarantine in hotels.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] ADF member [inaudible] tested positive [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Sorry, what was the start of the question?

**REPORTER:**

Sorry. The man who tested positive today, is he an ADF member?

**DR YOUNG:**

Not that I'm aware of. I don't know what his employment status is.

**REPORTER:**

What does the restrictions around Goondi mean? Does it mean that it's easier for them to pass across the border from New South Wales or in Queensland if they've got two properties or two farms?

**DR YOUNG:**

So we've got defined border zones in Queensland and in New South Wales, and anyone who lives in those defined border zones is freely able to cross for any purpose, across the border and back, but only within the defined zones.

**REPORTER:**

So you're just expanding some of the zone?

**DR YOUNG:**

We're just adding on an extra two postcodes with a very small number of people, but they were left out initially. And it made sense after discussing with the mayor about his community and where they work and live. It made sense to add those on.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, what did you make of the New South Wales Deputy Premier's comments yesterday? Some of things he said was that the border closure, particularly for residents outside of Sydney, was politically motivated, it was election driven.

**PREMIER:**

Well, Tasmania has their borders closed, South Australia has strict border closures and so does Western Australia, and Queensland is no different. So perhaps he needs to direct his comments at other states as well. It seems to be Queensland likes to be singled out.

**REPORTER:**

Alison mentioned to you, standing up at the bar and things like that – will it be a case if we get down to zero active cases, will then there be a change, or because there are still cases south of the border, it's just not worth the risk to relax those restrictions?

**PREMIER:**

Well I think we've got to protect... I mean at the moment our businesses are able to open up. In Victoria that's not the case. So we don't want to have a situation here where if there is a case where there's community transmission, it goes rampant through our community. So these decisions are based on the advice of Dr Young, and they'll stay in place as long as Dr Young sees fit.

**REPORTER:**

So you wouldn't anticipate a relaxation to back to the point where we were...

**PREMIER:**

Look, at the moment... I mean you only have to have gone out on the weekend to see how our businesses and cafes are actually functioning. Queenslanders are able to get out and enjoy their lifestyle, unlike other parts of the world and other states. So we want to keep it that way. So that means everyone's got to play their part. So it's not business as usual at the moment, but businesses are open.

**REPORTER:**

Brad Hazzard has also had a bit of a go at you this morning...

**PREMIER:**

Really? Okay, well there's a surprise.

**REPORTER:**

Yes, over some comments yesterday – and forgive me if I'm phrasing this wrong – but he said something yesterday when we were talking about patients from the border communities or near the border being able to come into Queensland for medical treatment. You said something like Queensland hospitals are good for Queenslanders or something and he's taken



offence to that, saying that they've had plenty of Queenslanders down in the Tweed. That sort of thing, and...

**PREMIER:**

Okay... I don't think it's that many. But look, where we can cooperate, we will cooperate. So, you know, we've got to put the health of Queenslanders first and the safety of Queenslanders first, but where there is an absolute need for a family to access our healthcare, it will go through the Chief Health Officer. But these are extraordinary times at the moment. This is not life usual. There is a global pandemic and we need to protect Queenslanders, and Dr Young has to make very tough decisions because we still know that people from Sydney are travelling into those northern New South Wales parts. We have to be very cautious because if someone came into our hospitals who was positive, imagine the ramifications there. So these are very tough decisions, but it's because we're in a global pandemic and because there is community transmission in New South Wales.

**REPORTER:**

What's been happening with the drug trade? Is there less drugs circulating in the community? How are they dealing with border closures?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yeah look, can I just say to you that that remains a very significant issue for us. We are still investigating a large number of drug offences in this state, including trafficking offences. Nothing has stopped in our vigilance around that. Of course, when you see those sorts of major events – this is a global event – it impacts on these types of undertakings, but what we've seen is that the drug trade is particularly resilient and has been for decades and it finds a way around problems. So this is a market-driven issue for us. People want to get drugs, so people find a way to get them. So we're across that. We're continuing to give it a high priority as are our partners nationally. So nothing has changed in terms of our approach to that. But what we are watching of course is what's happening with the way people are doing things.

**REPORTER:**

Have you caught more people seeing as your checking all these coming into the state? Are you catching more drugs coming in or is it about the same?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Look we're finding all sorts of things coming across the borders. There was a fellow yesterday caught at one of the Gold Coast borders with shotguns and shotgun shells and a variety of different things, and that person will have to answer for their actions before the court. We know that our road networks are used by crime and organised crime for their commodities to be transported, so it's not surprising that we will find that. So our officers are very switched on to the other parts of their job, as well as looking to make sure that people have the appropriate border declaration passes, but also looking for other signs. And we're seeing, you know, periodic significant seizures of issues like that.

**REPORTER:**

With people not being able to dance and rave at nightclubs, are the party pills being taken less?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

That's a very difficult thing to say. But we do nationally waste water testing around drug usage and it's not going down. We know that in periods like this people do tend to look towards alcohol and other substances. We're aware of this, but, you know, as I've said before, if people want to dance they really should do it at home at the moment because you're not permitted to do that under the current directions. So I think it's fair to say it's changed the way things are operating in our licensed premises for the moment.

**REPORTER:**

That Caboolture case you mentioned, are you able to elaborate any further on that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No. Simply what happened was this person... At the time there was a direction that only a certain amount of people were allowed to be gathered indoors as well as outdoors. Police were called to a particular residence, that person had exceeded, they were issued with an on the spot fine – same problem the next day, and then as we do if people aren't getting the message, we escalate it to the next level which is a notice to appear before court. That person has appeared before the Magistrate, and the Magistrate has taken very stern action in issuing that person with two months' imprisonment for that.

**REPORTER:**

So these were house parties, do you know how many people?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I haven't got the details of exactly that, but I can tell you that the directions are very clear around what you're able to do and that person exceeded them.

**REPORTER:**

Is this older, because I know...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

In April this was.

**REPORTER:**

So it's pre the 100 person limit.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yes. And look the point for that too is I mentioned that other person last week not wanting to listen to our directions and trying to find another way and just going against the law. We're not going to just let that go. We will continue to investigate these things, and we still have four investigations ongoing for those types of offences.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, Hannah Clarke's family today have called for laws around coercion and domestic violence, including dousing, like petrol offences, threatening to be doused in petrol – for it to be an offence. What's your response to that?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so those two issues – that's about coercive measures being applied to a person and also that issue of dousing, look I'm more than happy to refer that matter to our Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Council and I might invite Sue and Lloyd, if they are prepared, to also come and talk to the Council about those two important matters.

**REPORTER:**

The LNP is today promising to set up a new Coordinator-General to kickstart big projects, to audit those that are stalled and to seek, I think it was a billion dollars in investment – what do you think of that idea?

**PREMIER:**

Well I think that idea is about creating a whole new bureaucracy. So I would reject that. We already have a strong Coordinator-General, and we also have a \$50 billion dollar pipeline of projects that are in place, that are guaranteed to happen over the next four years, and that is a commitment that the Government has given to the people of Queensland – to keep people in jobs and people in work.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, the Women's Legal Service has called for stalking laws to be reviewed and rewritten to take into account new ways and technologies, is that something the Government is looking at?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, sure. We're also more than happy to hear from the Women's Legal Service, so we can forward those ideas as well, and then Government can consider them once they've been the council.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, what do you say to the reports that you involved yourself in pre-selection?

**PREMIER:**

In relation to what?

**REPORTER:**

Having a pre-selected candidate replaced with...

**PREMIER:**

Look I make no apologies for seeking out strong candidates in seats, like we have with Wayne “Rabbit” Bartholomew down in Burleigh and Angie Kelly in Whitsunday. I’m very proud that they’re on my team. I want strong candidates out there that are part of my team that want to keep Queenslanders safe, and I want to make that we’re growing our economy.

**REPORTER:**

Have there been any examples where a candidate has been pre-selected and you’ve sought to have them replaced with someone more of your choosing?

**PREMIER:**

Look I make no apologies for picking out the best candidates across the state.

**REPORTER:**

Just a quick one. We were talking about the borders yesterday, is that still being reviewed at the end of each month? Is that still the timeline you’re looking at?

**PREMIER:**

Yes. And we might just clarify some of those comments yesterday as well, and the day before. So I was talking very clearly that there were restrictions... very strong restrictions that have been put in place in Victoria, and it’s not only Daniel Andrews that is talking about those strong restrictions staying in place until Christmas, but the Prime Minister also said restrictions are likely beyond Christmas – so that’s in the Financial Review. So this is nothing new. I’m repeating what other people have been saying, but we will have strong restrictions in place in Queensland whilst there is community transmission in New South Wales and in Victoria. So the active cases in Victoria today are 7274, and there are active cases in New South Wales of 261. So there are still COVID cases where you cannot source where they are coming from in both of those states. Now, I think what we need to do as a country is support those two states to get on top of those cases so all of Australia can open up. That should be the number one aspiration of all premiers and state and territory leaders around the country.

**REPORTER:**

Is the benchmark still zero cases community transmission?

**PREMIER:**

Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

Is the benchmark still zero community transmission?

**PREMIER:**

Well we don’t want to have community transmission here. So we have to have these strong measures in place.

**REPORTER:**

What do you reckon – you said before that Queensland is being singled out. Why do you think that is? Is it because there is an election coming?

**PREMIER:**

You'll have to ask them. But, you know, I've stood up to worst before, so try your hardest.

**REPORTER:**

A little bit of COVID jealousy, perhaps?

**PREMIER:**

Well everyone wants to come here, Lane. It's pretty clear that everyone does want to come to Queensland, and look we are going to welcome people to Queensland once we get through this pandemic and once Victoria gets on top of their cases and once New South Wales gets on top of their cases.

**REPORTER:**

If or when it comes time to release the border restrictions, would you anticipate they'll be rolled back on a sort of postcard basis, like hotspots, or would you hold off until all of New South Wales is able to be opened up to Queensland.

**PREMIER:**

I will take the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

**REPORTER:**

A few months ago when we were talking about the border bubbles, there was some questions that we would [inaudible] of certain states, how would we rectify that?

**PREMIER:**

Well the same principles apply for Queenslanders as well. So if Queenslanders are coming back, they have to quarantine as well.

**REPORTER:**

Last one, Deputy Premier.

**PREMIER:**

Yep, the last one.

**REPORTER:**

This one's from my colleague on the Gold Coast. What have you been doing on the Gold Coast to stop the potential spread of COVID in aged care?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

So we have, and the Chief Health Officer, has been working with all of our aged care facilities – not for profit, for profit and publicly owned – to ensure that they have strong plans in place, infection control plans for while there are no cases, as well as rapid response plans

for if there are cases or concerns or risks of cases. We've seen in north Rockhampton just how effective they can be at stopping those infections, and we continue to work across all of those facilities to make sure they have strong plans in place.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DPC

Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young and Director-General Bob Gee

Date: 20 August 2020

Duration: x minutes x seconds

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*E&OE*

**PREMIER:**

Good morning everyone. Today we have a confirmed new case of COVID in Queensland, so one new case and we will have some further details about that later in the press conference. So, Dr Young and Bob Gee, our Director-General of Youth Justice will be addressing more details about that case. So we currently have eight active cases and we've had over 9700 tests in the last 24 hours, so well done Queensland. So what is really important for Queenslanders today is if you are sick, stay at home and get tested. What you're going to hear today is a story of a woman who was sick and still went to work. It is really, really important Queenslanders that if you are sick you must stay at home, because now a whole lot of contact tracing has to happen. So, we have had... Dr Young will also address the case of the Japanese woman in more detail, and I know that Dr Steven Miles has also discussed that this morning as well. But this new case that we are concerned about is a woman in her 70s, she lives in the Ipswich region and the contact tracing is now happening because she worked at the youth detention centre at Wacol. Bob Gee will give more details there but in some good news, there hasn't been visitors at that youth detention centre because of our concerns with those young women who came back from Victoria from the 27th of July until Monday. That is a whole lot of contact tracing that doesn't have to happen because those strict measures were put in place at the youth detention centre. I also want to reassure Queenslanders that we have very strong management plans in place for events like this and those plans are now being activated with the staff of the Brisbane youth detention centre and also with Queensland Health. Dr Young will address that in more detail. As I said, it is absolutely imperative during this time that Queenslanders, if you are sick, go and get tested. We now have all that contact tracing that need to happen. We will be speaking with her close contacts, with her family members to try and identify a connection of where it has come from. I will hand over to Dr Young and then to Bob Gee and then we're happy to take questions.

**DR YOUNG:**

Yesterday, we were notified from Japan of a case who travelled from Brisbane to Sydney, to Tokyo, was tested on arrival in Tokyo and found to be positive. We have now gone back and looked at the history of this particular individual. She travelled from Japan to Australia in the middle of July. She went into quarantine in Sydney and had two weeks in quarantine there. She had two tests done and both of those were negative. She then asked for an exemption for here in Queensland, that was given to her to visit her unwell father in Morningside, Bulimba area in Brisbane. She flew directly from Sydney. She left the quarantine hotel in Sydney, flew directly from Sydney into Brisbane and went and stayed with her father. She spent two weeks there, then on Monday, she... on Tuesday, sorry, she travelled back to Japan, travelling directly from Brisbane Airport on a Virgin flight, down to Sydney and onto Japan. At this stage, we're contact tracing all of her close contacts, at this stage we're aware

of six who we have tested and we should get their results late today. We also have been able to speak to her to find out where else she has been. She identified she went to the Jam Pantry in Greenslopes on Sunday morning for breakfast. She was there from 9.45am to 11:00am. Anyone who was at the Jam Pantry during that time frame should come forward and get tested. Anyone who was at the Jam Pantry during the rest of the day, who develops any symptoms at all in the next 14 days should, like any Queenslanders, come forward and immediately get tested. Then people who live in that Morningside, Bulimba area, at this stage we don't believe she went to any other venues for any significant period of time. So there is really no concern there, but again, if anyone who lives in that area becomes unwell with any symptoms, they should come forward and get tested. Metro South Hospital and Health Service has put in place additional hours for all of their clinics to enable that testing to occur. We believe that the risk from her is very low. We're not sure where she's acquired the infection but we believe that risk is very low. The second case, so that won't count as a case in Australia because it has been diagnosed in Japan, it will be counted as a case in Japan. But we are managing the time that she was here. The second case is a lady in her 70s, who lives in the Ipswich area. She developed symptoms, we believe, on the 10th of August, although that is all being clarified now. We only got the result for her late last night. We are just working through with her all her contacts at the moment. She has worked at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and she worked there for five shifts while she was in that infectious period. We go back remember two days prior to when symptoms first develop; so from the 8th of August. At this stage, we're working with the centre to test all of their residents. They have approximately 130 youths in detention there and all of the staff. There is over 500 staff. Plus, we will be going through whether there have been any visitors during that time period and whether, of course, there have been any residents who have moved in and out of the facility during that time to test them. For two reasons, one, whether they have got the infection now, possibly from this lady, or to try and see if we can find out where she might have contracted the infection. At this stage, we're not aware of any venues that she has been to that those young women who went down to Melbourne - that cluster of five - have been to during the period. But that is the work that we will now be doing very thoroughly over the rest of today, to work out all of her contacts, where she has been and where she might have got this infection. There are two cases that we're just working through all of the contacts and where people might have been and who might have been infected. While we do that, of course, it is very important that anyone who develops any symptoms, or has any symptoms, comes forward immediately, at any time and gets themselves tested and isolates themselves until they get results. That is really important. We don't know when our next case might appear in our community and the best way to defend against it is for people to get tested as early as possible and to not go out into the community and not go to work while they are unwell. The other thing is that we do have to maintain that social distancing because that is what will protect us from seeing a spread from any cases and, again, we don't know where these cases might end up. The third is that people don't go - just don't go to areas where we know there are large numbers of cases. That's New South Wales, Victoria and overseas. We are still seeing Queenslanders, for many different reasons, travelling interstate. This is not the time to travel interstate. Everyone should reconsider their need to do that. Thank you.

**BOB GEE:**

Good morning. You have already heard the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre at Wacol is in lock down. Last night we were advised by Queensland Health that a staff member had tested positive to COVID-19. We have been practising and we have been workshopping and of course testing our systems since COVID first came to light. I am very confident that we are doing everything we can to make sure that all of the staff, all of the young people, visitors, families and friends are supported. Can I just make a couple of quick points, some facts? Personal protective equipment has been issued to all staff. They have been trained in how to do that. Personal protective equipment will also be provided to young people... or has been provided to young people out there at the centre. I have



never seen more health professionals as the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre than there is out there today. Any new admissions to the centre will not be accepted. Any new admissions to the centre will not be accepted, of course. Can I ask people to stay away from the youth detention centre? We have police out there doing what they do best, helping us keep people away. The best thing we can do is let Health get in there and work with us to make sure we have the safest possible environment for the community. Just a couple of other quick facts, if I can? There will be no court appearances, there will be no education instruction at the centre today. We have plans in place for young people to be given support, in terms of education, health, contact with family and those processes are being put in place. It is a virtual world that we live in now. We will work through that today and over the coming days to make sure that we provide the best support we can to the young people that are there but, importantly, staff, family and friends. Some other facts, there is 127 young people out at the Brisbane youth detention centre today. 110 of those young people are male. 17 are female and the ages range from 13 years and six months upwards. There is about 520 staff that work at the centre, not all at once, of course. The majority of them are youth detention centre workers but also education and health professionals. As the Premier indicated, we took a conservative approach at the youth detention centre and face to face visits at the end of July were cancelled and only recommenced this Monday, the 17th of August. We are well placed every day, no-one can get into the youth detention centre, myself included, without having their temperature checked and being asked a series of questions about their own health and who they have been in contact with. Very, very strong processes in place there. I have got to say to anyone out there that has been in contact with any young people that they think have been at the youth detention centre, they should seek advice. To family, friends and staff, we will come to you directly, it is a great machine that we have got, in terms of disaster management in this state and we have got that practice well down at the youth detention centre. We have practised for this and so we will be providing information as soon as we can. That is all and we are open to questions.

**REPORTER:**

What is actually happening in the facility because you can't socially distance in there. Are some of these youth being taken out and put into areas to make sure that there is only one person per cell? Like, what is actually physically happening?

**BOB GEE:**

It is not the first time we have had infectious diseases in a youth detention centre. We are well practiced at locking down. Whether that is for a security reason or a health reason, we are well practised at that. What has actually physically happened, last night all of the young people were locked in their rooms and they stayed there. We will have, using personal protective equipment and well-trained staff, support for them for as long as it takes for Health to move through and do what they need to do in terms of checking.

**REPORTER:**

Do you know how many may have been already [inaudible] community since that [inaudible]?

**BOB GEE:**

I can't give you an exact figure but we're working through that with the State Disaster Coordination group, Police and Health.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any plan to try and make sure that the youth there are one to a room? I know it is not really possible, but if we're all trying to practise social distancing, how can you do that if you're all in together?

**BOB GEE:**

Can I make it really clear: overwhelmingly, every young person is in their own individual room. I really would doubt that there is any that are doubled up. From time to time that can happen, where people are related or want to, but we had already yesterday made sure - last night I should say - made sure that we put in place processes where people were separated, not just the young people but staff.

**REPORTER:**

How much contact did this woman have with the inmates?

**BOB GEE:**

The good thing about a youth detention centre is all movement within reason is tracked. The significant - and I think you all know this - there is significant CCTV footage. We will be able to work through all of that as best we can. I would say though that the advice I initially have is that her contact was limited to only a very small number of young people. She has not worked, walking through the accommodation section. She has worked in the operations centre.

**REPORTER:**

What was her role there?

**BOB GEE:**

She is a supervisor.

**REPORTER:**

The 500 staff and inmates, will they all be tested?

**BOB GEE:**

That's a matter for Queensland Health, but I suspect that we'll take a very conservative approach and do whatever it takes - not just those but other people that have been visiting and all those sort of things. So today there's a big machine out there.

**REPORTER:**

So what happens... obviously those staff are going to have to isolate at home until they get their test results now, so [inaudible] they will all be tested. So where are you going to get 500 staff from [inaudible]?

**BOB GEE:**

We've got plans in place for that. So we don't have, obviously, 500 staff out there working at one time. The youth detention centre cohort is under 400. We've got really well developed plans because this is not the first time this happened. In terms of... I shouldn't say... in terms of having staff shortages. So we're well placed in that space.

**REPORTER:**

What does it say about the protocols and processes? I assume, given the sensitivity of a facility like that, there'll be a lot of messaging to staff. Like, we always hear, don't work while sick. What does it say? This is a clear breakdown that this woman has turned up to shifts while symptomatic, would you agree with that?

**BOB GEE:**

I think it's early days and we should be really circumspect about what we've got. Health are doing a great job working, and I want to point out that staff member – we're concerned about her ongoing health, but I think it's very early days and too early to jump to conclusions.

**REPORTER:**

Have there been any extra measures taken other than temperature testing was mentioned... there's no mandatory testing of staff on a routine basis that would pick this stuff up. Is there any extra level of security that is being implemented during COVID to stop someone turning up to work who was clearly infectious?

**BOB GEE:**

I can go into a whole heap of detail, but from the basics of cleaning – every day, seven days a week there's an industrial clean through each night. So we've increased cleaning. All of those basic things that keep people staff – staying your distance, washing your hands, all of those things, personal protective equipment. For me, the point now is how do we go through the process and make sure that everyone that needs gets help.

**REPORTER:**

Are there any legal issues with forcing mandatory testing of this youth? You know, they're underage, do you require permission from their parents?

**BOB GEE:**

As I understand the law, between my legislative abilities and the Chief Health Officer's we can work through all of those scenarios.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can I ask about that Japanese woman. What sort of test did she have when she arrived back in Japan, and has Queensland Health asked for but been refused a blood test?

**DR YOUNG:**

So my understanding is Japan doesn't do serology testing routinely, so that's why it's not being done there. She had a PCR test, so a swab test, so the one that you do for acute symptoms to see if there's any virus.

**REPORTER:**

And did she have that because she had symptoms?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, she had it because she flew into Japan and everyone that gets tested who flies into Japan.

**REPORTER:**

Do you know how... Is she a dual citizen? I thought our international borders were closed – do you know how she got in?

**DR YOUNG:**

The Commonwealth gave her permission to come in.

**REPORTER:**

Is she an Australian citizen?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know those details.

**REPORTER:**

And was her requirement, once she had an exemption, for her to quarantine when she got to Queensland.

**DR YOUNG:**

No, because she'd completed two weeks of quarantine in New South Wales with two negative tests, and she went directly from the quarantine hotel wearing PPE to the airport and then came to Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

So it's highly likely that she did... I mean, it's hard to tell, but it's likely that she didn't contract the illness here. That she might have got it on a flight back to Japan, or something like that.

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know where she's got it. She could have had it before she came to Australia and have recovered and just be excreting virus later. We've seen that in quite a few cases. She could have got it in Brisbane, she could have got it on the plane going back to Tokyo, we really don't know. The most important thing for us is to contact trace and to test those people around her. And if all of those people are negative then I think we can say this a very low risk situation.

**REPORTER:**

At the youth detention centre, presumably a number of those children would be in the vulnerable category – Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander children. What extra precautions are being made for those youths? Are they being monitored around the clock, or what happens with them?

**DR YOUNG:**

Just remember that this disease for most people is quite mild for the first five days, so we will be going in there, we're going in there this morning and we're testing every single resident who's in there this morning.

**REPORTER:**

The main concern or [inaudible] I guess is the fact that [inaudible] get it, which shows that it's still out there in the community.

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, you're correct. It is a concern.

**REPORTER:**

Has she been able to provide you with a detailed list of the places she's visited?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's what they're talking to at the moment. So remember we got this result late last night, so they've been working through the night and this morning talking to her again.

**REPORTER:**

So would you expect a list similar to the one we had to be released today?

**DR YOUNG:**

When we get that information we'll release it immediately of course.

**REPORTER:**

Dr, do you have an update on the two crew members from Townsville?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, they're in the Townsville hospital, they're reasonably well at this time.

**REPORTER:**

Okay, and where is the rest of the crew isolating?

**DR YOUNG:**

They're on the ship. Yes. So they'll be going out today and retesting all of the people on the ship.

**REPORTER:**

And we had six active cases yesterday and eight today. The Japanese case doesn't go on our list, so where does the...

**DR YOUNG:**

So there was another case of someone who's been readmitted to hospital. So acquired interstate.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] she's in the higher-risk category. How's her condition? Is she in hospital?

**DR YOUNG:**

She's in hospital and she's reasonably stable.

**REPORTER:**

She took herself to get tested, eventually it was picked up, and you mentioned that she was symptomatic for five shifts...

**DR YOUNG:**

Well no, she was infectious for five shifts. So her symptoms started on the 10<sup>th</sup>, but we always go back two to three days before. So she worked during that period as well when she didn't have any symptoms but was infectious.

**REPORTER:**

Can you clarify, is an antigen test the same as the PCR?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, antigen is serology.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can I ask you a quick question on Qantas and Alan Joyce. This morning Alan Joyce has said that he doesn't think the current situation with state borders is acceptable and borders being closed to states with no or few active cases isn't a sustainable model, and he wants a national strategy set up to allow a better flow of commercial passengers within Australia. Is it time to have a national strategy on borders? Is that possible?

**PREMIER:**

I think the national strategy needs to be focusing on Victoria to get their cases under control – and New South Wales – so that all of Australia can open up. That should be the national strategy, and I talked about that yesterday.

**REPORTER:**

Is it premature...

**PREMIER:**

Absolutely, we always take the advice of the Chief Health Officer to keep Queenslanders safe. So I'm not going to bend to anyone. It is a tough time at the moment, but, you know, Qantas is free to operate within Queensland and those other states where the borders are open for interstate travel.

**REPORTER:**

Premier [inaudible] has said that patients in northern New South Wales have been required [inaudible]. Has enough been done?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, enough is being done. And if there are any individual cases people can apply for an exemption and they can get a decision from the Chief Health Officer. But, you know, let me make it very clear that health services are offered across the nation. Queensland health services are very strong, which is obviously why a lot of New South Wales people want to come to Queensland but we also know that people travelling to Queensland do pose an increased risk when it comes to COVID. So we have to make sure we have strict measures in place, and that's exactly what we have. So we will work with those individual families on a case by case basis, but there will not be a blanket exemption for everyone. We have to protect Queenslanders.

**REPORTER:**

Greg Hung has asked you to show some common decency...

**PREMIER:**

I'm showing a lot of decency. And it's about time that Greg Hunt focuses on aged care and the issues that are happening in Victoria and stop trying to raise every other issue about Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, does your handling and your Government's handling of this virus going to be part of your pitch to voters?

**PREMIER:**

What I'm focused on is making sure that we have COVID under control, but as we've seen today it can happen anywhere at any time and all of our agencies are operating for swift action. Look how swift the action has happened. This was detected overnight, we've got the Department of Health in at

the youth detention centre, and the detention centre's management plans have been activated because the Government has been planning for this. We have been planning for this and we will continue to plan for this.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] today, there's no plan to widening the border bubble?

**PREMIER:**

No. Definitely not.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can you elaborate – there were reports today that the Queensland Government [inaudible] Lions to prepare Queensland's bid for the AFL grand final?

**PREMIER:**

We will continue to work behind the scenes until the AFL makes a decision about the grand final, and that's all I'm going to say at this stage.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, [inaudible] last year you talked about the new [inaudible], where are they on that?

**PREMIER:**

We're just finalising the membership of that committee and that will be announced shortly.

**REPORTER:**

Have you received another letter from the Prime Minister about the border situation?

**PREMIER:**

Today? Not to my knowledge today, no.

**REPORTER:**

I've got one more question for Bob Gee.

**PREMIER:**

Yep, and then we have to finish up.

**REPORTER:**

You mentioned there'll be no more admissions at this stage, so where are the kids going in the meantime and how long do you think that will go on for?

**BOB GEE:**

So the immediate plan is for them to remain in watch houses. But we have significant capacity at Cleveland in Townsville, so we will work through with Police in terms of transporting them to Cleveland if we need to. But in the short term, they'll be in watch houses. Cleveland, off the top of my head, has at least 34 beds spare which is a significant number because we don't have many numbers.

**REPORTER:**

How long will that last, is it a 14-day period?

**BOB GEE:**

Based on health advice but I think we should expect it to be around there.

**REPORTER:**

I'm sorry, just to clarify the woman was a supervisor. Was she a supervisor of [inaudible]?

**BOB GEE:**

I'm not going into the detail about that individual employee other than to say that she's very valued in terms of her experience.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DRG



Engagement: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer

Date: 21 August 2020

Duration: 19mins 24sec

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## *E&OE*

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Good morning. Everyone good? So we have no further active cases in Queensland of COVID-19 meaning we have six active cases. Two are being managed in Gold Coast, two in Townsville, one in West Moreton and one in Metro North. Four of them are in hospital. None are receiving intensive care. In the last testing period we did 9122 tests which is a good increase and is what we would want to see under the circumstances. 56 of those tests relate to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and have returned negative results. There are still, of course, outstanding tests that were of the 75 that were taken yesterday. The rest of the young people there, the 127, will be tested as well as staff. The Chief Health Officer will also outline an historic case that has been identified in this testing period and will be added to our probable cases count and it relates to a known historic cluster.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So no new cases overnight which is excellent particularly all the work that was done yesterday at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre where 56 results have already come back and all of those have been negative. And of course, the vast majority of those were done on the children, the youth, in the centre so that is a good outcome. We'll continue to test all of the youth in that centre plus all of the staff and continue that process over the weekend. Now, we did have one new case overnight. A probable historic case. So these are one of those ones that are being picked up on serology. It's of no concern and we can actually link it back to a known outbreak that occurred earlier on in the pandemic. So that just lets us know that we had more cases at that time when we had that large numbers...when we were getting those 80 or so cases every day, which is good that we're continuing to get that information come through.

It's really, really important that people continue to come forward to be tested if they have any symptoms at all. Any symptoms no matter how mild. That is vitally important. And that you isolate yourself until you get the result of the test. Then, we also must maintain social distancing. If anything this last week has shown to us that we don't know when we might get the next case and the best way to manage that is to manage social distancing. And we can see that in the Brisbane Youth Centre that they did have policies in place and we'll see what the result of that is after having had a case in the centre. Hopefully, with all of the policies...so a very rigorous policy, we won't get spread there. And we need to have that occur through

every aspect of our lives. It's difficult. It's annoying. It's...we all want to go back to normal. We can't yet until we've got this pandemic under control and we have an outcome with either a good effective treatment or a vaccine.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, has there been any connection established the two girls that came back from Melbourne and anyone inside the detention centre?

**DR YOUNG:**

Not that I'm aware of. At the moment I'm waiting for the genomic sequencing of the virus that the lady has who works in the centre and those young women who went down to Melbourne. I haven't got that genomic sequencing yet. I expect it in the next week.

**REPORTER:**

So it might take a week before [inaudible]. With the woman, has she been tested again? How confident are you that it's an actual positive and not a false positive?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm very, very confident. I must admit when I got the first result the other night I did question it because there were no links. So I asked for a second test to be done immediately which was done and it was definitely positive. So I'm absolutely, totally confident that this is an actual test. Now we will get the genomic sequencing so that will give us even more information.

**REPORTER:**

With all the talk, sorry Alison, today and the last couple of days about the borders, can you give us an idea of what the medical health advice is about the border?

**DR YOUNG:**

The health advice is that we must – and I say this every single day – we must minimise movement of people in and out of areas that have got higher numbers of cases. So here in Queensland, you heard, we've got six active cases. So that means we need to protect that. And that best way of protecting it is for people to not go to places where there are active cases and bring it back in to Queensland. So that's the whole border arrangement. Now, we do have some exemptions for that. We can't be as strong with our domestic borders as we are with our international borders because we are one country and there is a lot of movement. So that's why we're allowing people who work in the construction industry, the resources and mining and the agricultural industry to continue to move over the border. There are limits of course. There are requirements. So we need to manage those but ultimately in my view if we were to have an outbreak in a construction site or a fruit picking or in the resources sector we could manage that by closing that area down and all of those industries know that. So that's why they're putting in place their risk management in their areas. But that's really important we keep that movement going, although it is of course a risk but it's less of a risk. There are other people I'm far more concerned about which is why I'm being very rigorous about those. I don't want health care workers crossing the border because they're coming from high risk areas, working in high risk situations and then coming in to Queensland and going into a high

risk situation – either an aged care facility or a hospital. So we've made decisions there that those have to be managed. Similarly, police – I don't want police crossing the border, one side on the other because they're in high risk situations. They're managing our borders, they're managing our hotels, they're managing out in the community. So again, I've got concerns there. And then, I don't want people crossing border who can actually manage their lives where they are. So, I don't want them coming across to...as tourists, for recreational purposes or to go shopping. They can do that on their side of the border. So it's all about risk managing. I'm concerned about the amount of movement out of Sydney into Northern New South Wales. That definitely concerns me. It is good to see that New South Wales is looking at their risks in Tweed because I know that were the virus to get out into the Tweed area that would be a very big concern for us in Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young just on that – Qantas has revealed that its second most popular flight is that Sydney to Ballina rout. How much of a concern is that? [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Exactly. That's the reason behind why we've done all this and why I'm keeping such a close eye on what's happening in Tweed because I'm well aware of that movement. There is no restriction in New South Wales for people to move into Northern New South Wales so it is a big concern.

**REPORTER:**

So how would you describe the current situation in New South Wales, the figures at the moment?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's clear that they're getting on top of it, the numbers are coming down which is really reassuring but they're still having those cases that they don't know where they come from. So that is a concern and it means that there is still a risk. And indeed, we've seen it here in Queensland and with people coming out of Sydney coming into Queensland. So I'm very concerned about coming out of Sydney coming into Northern New South Wales.

**REPORTER:**

Would your advice to the Premier today before National Cabinet be no change to borders?

**DR YOUNG:**

That is my advice today, yes.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, Peter Dutton said this morning that our border closures are driven by politics. What do you say to that?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well my advice is driven by health, and that is the only issue that I consider.

**REPORTER:**

And he also said if we have got Premiers pursuing another elimination process the country will go broke. Is Queensland pursuing an elimination process?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. If we were pursuing an elimination process, I wouldn't be recommending that all of these workers cross our border, who definitely are at risk of bringing the virus in. But I believe, because of our great systems in place, we can manage any case in those selected areas very quickly. But if we wanted an elimination strategy our border would be closed to everyone.

**REPORTER:**

Out at Wacol, we have been contacted by direct family members of people who work at the detention centre who say that some of those people who work there have been told that they are only going to get tested if they have got symptoms or if they have worked directly with this woman. Can you shed some light on who's getting tested, when are they getting tested? Is it a possibility that people just haven't been told that they need to get tested yet, or...?

**DR YOUNG:**

Every single resident in the centre will be tested. Most of them have already been tested – we are waiting on results. Every single staff member who has worked in there during the period of concern will be tested, and any residents who have left the centre during that period, because there is quite a high turnover in that centre, we are tracking down and we are testing. So we tested one last night who had been in the centre recently, and that test was negative.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any possibility that some of the staff that worked there, for example, they haven't tested yet but they will be tested?

**DR YOUNG:**

Absolutely. There is a lot of staff – well over 500 – who work there and not all of those, of course, were on duty yesterday or today even. So they will just methodically go through and organise to test all of those staff.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, we were talking about the borders before, we have still got a lot of complicated medical scenarios. For instance, we have heard from a mum who had a baby in Grafton – it was an emergency C-section. The baby was taken to the Gold Coast for treatment. The baby is now stronger, but Queensland Health will only return the baby as far as Tweed, and somehow the mum has to meet the baby there.

**DR YOUNG:**

That is often what we do – we have an arrangement between the ambulance services in Queensland and New South Wales. So I don't think that is any different to the normal process, but that is a question that we can always check with Ambulance. But generally, that

is usually what happens. We will move someone to the border because New South Wales has got a very, very competent Ambulance Service – of course they do – and just hand over.

**REPORTER:**

With the family [inaudible] right, the baby is just being dumped there [inaudible].

**DR YOUNG:**

No. No, of course not. No. New South Wales has got excellent health services. I mean, we have excellent health services, but New South Wales does as well. I have no concerns there.

**REPORTER:**

You touched on the exemption process the other day, you obviously have a lot coming across your desk. Is there any update on how that process may be tracking?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So every time there is a change to the border direction we have to change the exemption process, so we are just working that through now. So the most recent change was 1:00am Thursday morning, so we are just working the change to the exemption process. But we have gone and clarified all of the medical exemptions.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, do we know [inaudible] in recent weeks the woman who was infected [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So we are working with her and we are getting that information at the moment from her. But essentially she has really been mainly at home and at work, but we are just working through where else she might have been and we are putting out a public health alert if we get any additional information.

**REPORTER:**

Minster, can I get your reaction by Peter Dutton today, that it is all about politics?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Oh look, I don't take too much notice of what Peter Dutton says, but I just note that he is one of the few people to have actually personally brought COVID-19 into Queensland. He knows personally how terrible this disease is. He should know better than anyone how important it is that we keep the virus out of our state. We will continue doing our job, which is keeping Queenslanders safe. Peter Dutton has one job, and that is keeping our borders safe. And he has consistently failed. He has failed on cruise ships, he has failed on hotel quarantine. Peter Dutton and I represent the same parts of the world, and if he wants to I'll challenge him. He and I can go for a walk in shops at Strathpine or Kallangur – the neighbourhoods we represent – and see what Queenslanders think. Queenslanders want our borders to be kept safe. They want Queensland to be kept safe for Queenslanders. They want their government to continue to take the health advice.

**REPORTER:**

Is it possible, do you think, to have a national approach on borders, because we know that the border decisions at the moment are made by the states? Is it feasible to have a national approach on it? And given cases happen in different areas?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look, I think that would be challenging. I know that the Premier will put very forcefully Queensland's case at the National Cabinet today, which is that it is the right of Queensland and of Queenslanders to keep our state safe. Throughout this pandemic the states and territories have had different experiences at different times, and so it is important that they have the flexibility to put in place measures that keep their populations safe. And we will continue to do that, just as the governments of WA, South Australia, Tasmania continue to do so. I note that Peter Dutton doesn't do morning TV attacking them though. He spends his time attacking the Queensland Government, who after all are spending their time keeping him and other Queenslanders safe.

**REPORTER:**

Can I just ask you a quick question please? Just on Cameron Milner, the column in today's paper. He said the lack of electoral complacency and hubris [inaudible] Labor circles. How would you respond to that?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look, I think people would understand that I am not spending too much time focused on the election. My days every day are focused on COVID-19 and Queensland's health response, as well as ensuring our hospitals are taking care of Queenslanders in every way. So I reject completely, not just his claims about culture within the party, but also his claims about our economic planning. You know, it was only yesterday that the Premier spoke at the Centre for Economic Development. At that luncheon she launched the next stage of our economic recovery plan, which I think demonstrates that we are 100 per cent focused on the jobs and the health of Queenslanders.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, Minister I was just after one more question.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Another one?

**REPORTER:**

Well now that you brought up the plan. Yesterday the Premier said that the only reason that Queensland's economy can be open is because the borders are closed. Is that not taking it into a political sphere? Is that not politicising the issue?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

No, I think it's about clarifying that our health response is a key part of the economic response. There's no jobs growth in Melbourne right now, whereas we have people here back

in work and that is because we've been successful at suppressing COVID-19, successful at keeping it out of our state. And so, you don't get... there is no choice between a health response and an economic response. The first stage of any economic response has to be the health response. The first stage of getting businesses open and back to work was and continues to be the health response. They are inseparable.

**REPORTER:**

Just on the detention centre. Are staffing levels...

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I blame you, Jack.

**REPORTER:**

...Staffing levels at the moment at the detention centre, how is that being managed given you've got some that are being tested? Have you brought in like a relief [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

The Youth Justice Department have advanced pandemic plans that were developed with us before this and are now being put in place. They are not taking new young people into the centre. There may need to be the quarantining of some staff, but they will be able to manage that within their staffing I understand.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, I actually just have one more. Can you manage you [inaudible] the Coordinator-General is?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Toni is doing a great job as our Coordinator-General. She definitely is.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can I just ask you one quick more question. Sorry Shane, there's important health issues as the Deputy Premier has just pointed out. Yesterday there was discussion about this woman and her symptoms. Can you clarify – was she symptomatic? What sort of symptoms was she showing?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, she had symptoms and they started on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORTER:**

What sort of symptoms? Were they...

**DR YOUNG:**

Very, very mild symptoms. That is why – now I get to have my turn – that is why no matter how mild your symptoms are, or indeed, as I often say, if you're not sure if you've got symptoms, so you've got something and you're not sure, get yourself tested. That is the best

way to keep yourself, your family and the community safe. And a lot of people are doing that, because I can assure you the 10,000 Queenslanders who we're seeing most days get tested – not all of them have got those traditional symptoms. They're coming forward, they're getting themselves tested. So it's really important. Any symptoms at all, or fever, or history of fever, get yourself tested. It does mean you'll have to stay in home isolation until you get the result. But that is a really important thing to do.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI - DPC



Engagement: Press conference

Speaker/s: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Youth Justice Director-General Bob Gee, and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 22 August 2020

Duration: 34 minutes, 25 seconds

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### *E&OE*

#### **PREMIER:**

Well today we have some really important messages for Queenslanders, especially people living in the south-east. So, as we know we had the confirmed positive case at the youth detention centre and we immediately set about putting our plans in place to ensure that we did comprehensive testing. That testing has now produced more positive results. That means that we now have six additional positive cases relating to the cluster at the youth detention centre. In addition, we have three extra positives from crew members on ships. We are not worried about the crew members on the ships because they are being taken care of and they are no concern to us. We are concerned about the now total of seven positive cases linked to the youth detention cluster. We're concerned about this cluster because people have been out and about in the community. So today I'm asking people in these local government regions to listen very carefully to Dr Young because we are going to be giving some very important messages. The first message we will be giving people is that effective immediately, gatherings in your home will be reduced to 10 people. Gatherings outside, for example, in parks will be limited to 10 people. And that includes people living in the areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, Moreton Bay and Redlands. To everyone else outside Queensland we will be limiting those home gatherings to 30 people and to 30 people in outside areas such as parks.

What we are concerned about is that these people have been out and about in the community so what we also need are Queenslanders to realise, especially in south east Queensland, is that if you have any symptoms whatsoever, we need you to get tested now. We'll be standing up additional fever clinics in SEQ, they will be on a website and we encourage you, if you are sick, if you have any symptoms, to get tested. This is a very important time especially over the next couple of days and of course, we do expect there could be even more cases linked to this cluster. But we will not know those until the further results come in. I want to assure everyone that we have been planning for this and we have all of our management systems in place. The processes that are being deployed at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre are first class. I'm absolutely of confident with Bob Gee's experience that he is managing the centre, the staff and the children are being well looked after at the centre. I don't want anyone to be concerned about that. To the people who have now received a positive result, we wish you all the very best and we will be making sure that we look after you and your families. But now

my job is to look after all of Queensland and the south east Queensland. And that means we need to limit those gatherings.

The other measures we're putting in place today as well is that aged care homes will also in those regions go into a lockdown. They were contacted overnight and that is taking effect immediately and Dr Young will talk about that in more detail. I will handover to Dr Young to go through in more details about these individual cases, the suburbs where these people are from, because I think it is very important that people in those suburbs know to take extra precautions if they are feeling sick or unwell. So, we'll get through this together. I'm confident we will if everybody listens to the messaging, listens to Dr Young and we all play our part to keep everyone safe. It is very important that cafes and restaurants have their COVID Safe Plans in place, and can I say thank you because the ones that I have been to have absolutely been doing that, but the key is absolutely social distancing. This weekend, if you are going to a shopping centre, and there is no social distancing, you should leave immediately. Social distancing is incredibly important. It is our biggest weapon against this disease. I'll handover to Dr Young and then the Deputy Premier will make some comments and then we'll hand over to Bob Gee and the State Disaster Coordinator.

### **DR YOUNG:**

Thank you. So we now have seven cases associated with the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. I'm going to go through those seven cases so people know where these individuals live, that's important, but we also, of course, are contact tracing for each one of these cases to work out where in the community they've been and we will be putting out public health alerts if there are any significant risks where people have been for that period of time that we're always concerned about. So if people remember, if you have been in close contact with someone for 15 minutes, that means you're a close contact or if you've been in a room for more than two hours with the person. So we don't have all that information at this stage. We will be gathering that over the next 24 hours.

So, the seven individuals who have tested positive so far related to this cluster are that first individual who lives in Bundamba who was at work and we know about her, she was notified a few days ago. And may I please commend her because she has been very, very helpful with us and there are not any areas that she has been that I'm particularly concerned about at all. So, I thank her and her family for their assistance that they have been giving us over the last few days. Then we have got a second gentleman who worked in the centre and became sick at around at the same time and he lives Marsden. A third gentleman who works in the centre and also does some work for QBuild and has been doing work at the Springwood School, who's been working through contact tracing there, and we will be working with the school as to whether or not they will be able to open on Monday. He lives in Carindale. His wife, his partner, has already tested positive as well. So she is the seventh case. Then we have another gentleman who works in the centre who lives in North Ipswich who also works in a disability accommodation service. So we're working through with that service what that means. Then we have a relative of that gentleman who was in the Ipswich Hospital. So I will be talking about the Ipswich Hospital a bit more in a moment. So we're doing contact tracing there. That's our fifth case. The sixth case is another female worker at the Brisbane Youth Detention

Centre who lives in Forest Lake. So there are seven cases at the moment that we've confirmed positive related to the Brisbane detention youth centre.

So we are going through and continuing to test every single youth person in that centre, youth resident. None of them have come back positive, but we are still awaiting a few results and we are going through and gradually testing the more than 500 workers who work in that centre. Not every day, of course, so we're just working through the different days, but in the end we will test every single worker who works or has any involvement in that centre. Now because as you heard, I will repeat the suburbs where these people live. Remembering, of course, people have been outside their suburbs into a broader area, but those suburbs are Marsden, Carindale, North Ipswich and Forest Lake.

Now, because of the extent of this and because we want to as our plans have said right from the start to get on top of this as quickly as we possibly can, that's why I've advised that we need to immediately in all of Brisbane, so Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, the Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, Lockyer Valley – so the whole Greater Brisbane area, so not the Gold Coast and not the Sunshine Coast. So that Greater Brisbane area that I've asked and we will be implementing as soon as this press conference is finished, that people can only gather in groups of 10. That is because we've got excellent COVID Safe Plans. I have seen them myself. I have seen all the plans. They are excellent. For our commercial venues, for our pubs and clubs and restaurants and cafes, we have got excellent COVID Safe Plans for our community sport, for our sporting facilities and I'm very confident about those, but I know that people will do things differently in their own home – of course, they will. So, that's why people can only have gatherings of 10 in their own homes, so we go back to where we were back in March, April. Now, outside of the Greater Brisbane area, I need people to reduce their gathering size to 30 because at the moment, of course, we are contact tracing every single youth resident who has been in the centre and where they've gone, when they've left the centre over the last several weeks to see whether there is any issues there.

So, this is a really important action that we need to take this weekend. I'm confident that we'll manage it. We'll get on top of it, but it is by doing these things that we'll do that. A few things I instituted last night because, of course, I'm most concerned about the most vulnerable in our community. So last night I asked in that Greater Brisbane area that all of our aged care facilities go back to having no visitors, that our disability accommodation services, not have visitors and I've asked our hospitals, our emergency departments in our hospitals, to use personal protective equipment for every single patient they see because at the moment we don't know who may have the infection because it is out there in our community. We've clearly got community spread. So I need to protect the other people who are coming to emergency departments, so I assure every Queenslanders our emergency departments are safe. You can go there for care. We've put extreme, if I can put it like that, processes in place in our emergency departments to ensure that every single person who attends our emergency department is safe. Then I have asked at the Ipswich Hospital, because if you remember one of those seven cases was in the Ipswich Hospital, so I've asked the Ipswich Hospital to use personal protective equipment throughout their hospital until we get on top of this. I'm just being ultra-cautious because I believe that is the best way we can all be to manage this and I want every Queenslanders, particularly those in Greater Brisbane to be ultra-cautious this weekend.

So, follow your own plans. I know Queenslanders are very, very good at planning for any situation. So, follow your plans. You know if you're at higher risk were you to get this infection. This is maybe the weekend to have a weekend at home if you think you're a higher risk individual and for those people who are out and about, by all means, out and about, but maintain social distancing. That is really important. Everyone knows about the 1.5 metres. If you maintain 1.5 metres from someone who is clearly not coughing, sneezing or sick, that's in plenty of room so that you are very, very, very unlikely to get infected. Wash your hands regularly, as we know people can cough on surfaces, pick it up, touch their face. So, do those two things. That's really important and then, of course, the most important message of all, if you're sick, particularly at the moment, if you're sick with any symptoms at all, no matter how mild, stay home, isolate yourself and get yourself tested as soon as possible. We've stood up a lot of additional clinics. They are around. Go on the website and you will be able to see the one closest to you. So get yourself tested, stay home, isolate yourself – that's absolutely critical. If we do those things, we will manage this as we've managed it before. I have no concerns there. So just, all take those messages. If you're sick, stay at home, get tested and if you're out a about maintaining social distancing at all times. Thank you.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you Premier, thank you Dr Young. The nine new cases that we are reporting in Queensland today brings our total number of active cases currently to 15. Three of those are crew from cargo ships off the coast near Townsville and Mackay. The other six as you've heard are related to this cluster at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Four worked at the centre. Two are relatives of those who worked at the centre. They live and work across a range of suburbs in the southern suburbs of Brisbane and in Ipswich. Our message to Queenslanders today is that this is precisely what we have been planning for. Our rapid response capability has already been deployed. Our contact tracers are working and did work through the night. The state health emergency coordination centre, our public health units as well as, of course, the Chief Health Officer and her team have been working with Youth Justice to ensure that any possible contacts are being traced right now. These new restrictions apply throughout the Metro North, Metro South and West Moreton Hospital and Health Services. Aged care facilities in those districts have already been locked down to visitors as have disability accommodation providers, our hospitals throughout those regions have escalated their protective equipment rules and usage. The gathering limits that the Chief Health Officer has just outlined apply immediately. That is a limit of 10 people at any venue without a COVID Safe Plan in those regions as well as a limit of 30 outside of those regions. Of course, community sport, pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants all have COVID Safe Plans, so they can continue to have gatherings greater than those numbers, but it is important that they strictly apply those plans particularly social distancing and the collection of contacts and contact details across this weekend. It is incredibly important that people in Brisbane, Greater Brisbane and Ipswich apply all of the rules we have been repeating these seven months, in particular social distancing.

We tested 9447 people in the last 24-hour period, but we need to test more over this weekend. So, anyone in the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas with any symptoms at all are urged to attend one of the testing locations. There are literally dozens of testing locations. We ramped up our capacity to test in those regions after the recent outbreak related to women who

returned from Melbourne to Logan. You can visit the Queensland Health website. It has a list of all of those testing locations. We urge anyone with any symptom to go and get tested. There will be, likely, more cases over the weekend. In fact, if there are cases out there, we hope we find them and it is testing and people's willingness to go and get tested that will ensure that we do find them so that we can isolate them, treat them, contact anyone who has been in contact with them and avoid any further spread from this outbreak.

**BOB GEE:**

Can I just make a shout out to the community and thank them for their support for youth detention workers. This morning we have five staff members at the youth detention centre that have tested positive to COVID and two cases related to those. So, a shout out to those individuals. They have our total support. Can I talk about the youth justice system generally though? We're in a very, very strong position. The number of young people in this state that have been convicted of offence in the last year has dropped by 23 per cent. We have more beds than we have capacity at Cleveland. There are only five young people on remand in watch houses in the state. Can I say that legislation, legislative changes made through the emergency COVID session earlier in the year has put myself and the department in a great position to be able to bring in extra resources. Can I also say that we're working very closely with the state disaster coordination group to make sure that we have the resources we need, and that young people and staff are well cared for. Can I say to the family, friends and all of those that care about all of the young people we care for, that they are well looked after, that they have been talking to families, that as staff results have come in later today, we will be able to do more to let those young people have more access to activities. Can I also make a really big shout out to the nurses and health staff that have been at the youth detention centre. They have been around the clock helping us with PPE and those things. God bless them, they are doing a great job for us. We couldn't get through it without them. I'm going to close by saying a couple of little things about the young people that are out there. They have been particularly patient and well-behaved, and I wanted to thank them for the behaviour that they're showing.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. May I start with saying that as the Deputy Premier has indicated we have planned for and exercised for this very contingency. There are significant resources that we are bringing to bear from across Government to enable us to ensure that we can contact trace, lockdown, isolate and quarantine the people that need to be as a result of this outbreak. Those resources are in play now. That will not have any impact on our ability to police our borders or indeed to maintain the quarantines or in fact, for police officers to do their normal duties. We are using our disaster management arrangements. They work well for us, that's how we get our coordination right and of course we are standing up more completely our State Disaster Coordination Centre to support the state health emergency coordination centre and control centre. This is a health-led response. In particular resources from Queensland Police and Queensland Correction Services are helping Youth Justice to make sure the centre at Wacol remains secure, safe and the young people are looked after. Additionally, resources from across government, in particular the Queensland Police Service, to assist with contact tracing so that we can quickly identify all of those persons that are out there that we need to

locate and able to test. Can I say with respect to the new restrictions - as you heard they are in place immediately. So the message to the community is that we will take this seriously from a policing prospective. Of course, as we have always throughout the response, we will act with compassion, use communication, but we need your compliance and for anyone who blatantly decides to disregard those restrictions, there will be consequences. So please work with us. As you heard the social distancing is absolutely important for us to make sure that we can limit the spread of COVID. With respect to the fever clinics that are open, please exercise patience. If you're aware they're there in that area, don't go there unless it is for the point to get tested. We will have Police resource on the ground to make sure that people conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. So as you have heard there it is probably a good day or a good weekend for us all to take a breath and see what is happening and limit the amount of time we spend in the community. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Any questions anyone has for anyone in particular?

**REPORTER:**

Will you be releasing lists of where these people have gone in public [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, so the contact tracing is underway and as we get that information we will absolutely be letting the community know.

**REPORTER:**

So to confirm five workers have tested positive and two relatives?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, correct Lydia.

**REPORTER:**

So all this information that we now have that was read out just then, is that available to the public right now?

**PREMIER:**

Well hopefully it has been conveyed exactly to the public as we have received it, yes. And we will be getting the details of where the fever clinics are and it is very important this weekend if anyone is feeling sick, whatsoever, stay at home and get tested, maintain that social distancing and if you don't need to be in crowded places this weekend, do not be in crowded places if you live in those council regions that we read out.

**REPORTER:**

One of the new cases worked at the Springwood State School [inaudible] high school. Is there any plans to set up fever clinics there?

**PREMIER:**

We're working through that at the moment. So Dr Young will give more information about that as the day progresses.

**REPORTER:**

How concerned are you about the disability services facility that [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Look we're concerned about any contacts that any of these people may have had. Let's also bear in mind too that we may get further cases of workers at the detention centre and as Dr Young and Bob said, you know, these workers do an incredible job for our community and we hope that they can get through this. But it is really important that we get the information out to the public as it comes to hand, our contact tracers, we have an amazing army of contact tracers out there. They have been planning for this. They do this meticulously. Our Queensland Disaster Management Committee will be meeting later this morning. That's the committee we stand up for when we have bushfires and cyclones and floods. It is well executed in this state. We have run it many, many times. I'm very confident that all of the agencies are working incredibly closely together and that has come through years of working together on things such as natural disasters.

**REPORTER:**

And with these limits of 10 people, does that include places like gyms, etc?

**PREMIER:**

No, because the gyms the gyms would have COVID Safe Plans. Gyms, restaurants, cafes, bars, they have COVID Safe Plans in place. This is where there is no COVID Safe Plan and, for example, gatherings in your home or gatherings in public places such as parks.

**REPORTER:**

I have a question for Dr Young if that's okay. You mentioned that the Marsden man became sick about the same time as that first case. Does that mean he might have infected the 77-year-old woman?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, because they became sick around at the same time.

**REPORTER:**

Are we any closer to finding out how this might have started?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. So we're doing genomic sequencing as we speak and we should have those results at the end of next week, and that will give us a better idea of where this strain of the virus has originated.

**REPORTER:**

Do we know yet, Dr Yong, whether or not these cases are linked to the women that went to Melbourne at all?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, that's the genomic sequencing that's underway. So we should have some idea by the end of the week.

**REPORTER**

Is the Government exploring the possibility that the 77-year-old caught coronavirus from a child at the youth centre?

**DR YOUNG:**

We're exploring all possibilities at the moment. That's all part of that contract tracing. When we contact trace, we don't just contact that particular person and who they have been in contact with going forward to see who's at risk, we also contact trace going backwards to see where the person has got it from.

**REPORTER:**

Has there been any tests returned that indicate a child may have had it at the youth detention centre prior to this?

**DR YOUNG:**

So we're doing serology testing at the moment of every child in the centre, and we haven't go those final results.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] how many of the tests have come back, out of the staff in the [inaudible], are you able to say how many have been tested with no result?

**DR YOUNG:**

That work is happening this morning. So, we've got those results overnight. So I know the positives this morning, but I don't know all the negatives if that makes sense because there is a lot of negatives out there. We've tested well over 7000 people. So we just have to methodically go through the negatives now.

**REPORTER:**

Do you expect that we're going to see more and more cases coming through for the next week or so after this?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think there is a significant chance we will see more cases which is why we need to go and ask everyone to really adhere to social distancing and to get tested.

**REPORTER:**



If we're going to jump on this properly right now, could this be the start of a second wave for Queensland?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is too early to comment on that. We're at seven cases, and because, in Queensland, we jump on things at seven cases, I sincerely believe we will get on top of it because Queenslanders have always responded very, very well to the message. So the message for this weekend is for everyone just to be ultra-cautious. We've got brilliant plans in place. We didn't have these plans in place the last time that we started to see some cases. We do this time, which is why we can keep all of those commercial enterprises and all of those community sporting going because we've got really good plans. So everyone, adhere to the plans this weekend. That's really, really important and maintain social distancing. If you can't maintain social distancing, think about is this the time to be doing whatever it is you're doing. Or maybe wait, and, of course, if you have any symptoms, get tested. Today, in Brisbane, I can clearly say in Brisbane and in Ipswich, if you have got symptoms of the flu, it is most likely to be COVID, not flu. We have got very, very little flu in our community and we have these seven cases of COVID.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, are you concerned with, I guess the spread of where these positive cases are? Right from Carindale, North Ipswich – like it seems spread right across Brisbane, are you concerned about that? And is that the reason why the area of the gatherings limited to 10 people is so great [inaudible] when the outbreak is only in some spots?

**DR YOUNG:**

Exactly, and I want to get on top of this very, very quickly. So although we don't have suburbs in the northern part of Brisbane involved, I don't know that these people haven't been across the northern side of Brisbane. So that's why, we've just declared, all of Greater Brisbane and Ipswich, West Moreton as being of concern.

**REPORTER:**

This is the first step in terms of tightening restrictions. Could the restrictions be tightened further? Could we see further restrictions come into place if the case numbers continue to rise?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's always a possibility, but I believe we have got really good COVID Safe plans. I have been going through them now for months and they are very, very impressive. So as long as people adhere to the plans and work with businesses, because that's the feedback I sometimes get from businesses, that people themselves don't fully understand the importance. So, this is the weekend for everyone to just follow those COVID Safe Plans and leave all their contact details and leave them, not in my writing, my writing is illegible, it's awful. I'm very careful when I leave my details at all of these places. Make sure you leave them legible so that someone can easily pick it up, and see the phone number - and I always think in this day and age, a mobile phone number is a great way of contacting someone - email as well, and the

name. That's just critical and people have done it really well. We saw in one of the last cases that there were only two out of over 1000 that we couldn't interpret the writing. So that's good, but everyone please use your best writing and really capture it. A lot of places

are now using QR Codes and doing some really, really innovative stuff. So please use that, but just make sure wherever you go and you're going to be there for that 15 minutes or longer, that you leave your details so that we can then very quickly, we have got a great team of contact tracers and we have got enormous numbers of them, but the quicker we've got your information, the quicker we can let you know and the quicker then you can protect your family because unfortunately we don't have enough people who have loaded that COVIDSafe app. It is a weekend for everyone to go and download it. It is a really good initiative. I've done it because I want to know the second I've potentially been in contact with someone who has got COVID-19. So, please, everyone, if you haven't already, load that app, but keep putting your details out there.

**REPORTER:**

What's your advice to people who are elderly, you know, might be going through cancer treatments, do they just stay at home for the next week or so? No shopping centres, no restaurants – is that right?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So that's why I was saying earlier. I'm sure that Queenslanders have thought this through. They always do. Queensland is always very well prepared. So everyone should think about their personal COVID-safe plan and if they're in that vulnerable group, start thinking about how they can manage themselves. So, we've had lots of offers with the Care Army, there is lots of processes in place to help those elderly, vulnerable and those other people who are immuno-compromised. So this weekend I suggest that you really think about staying at home if you're one of those vulnerable groups. Definitely, definitely, don't go anywhere where you can't maintain social distancing.

**REPORTER:**

I have a question about the cargo ships. Are they all on the same ship and is that linked to the one off Townsville?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, we have got several cargo ships involved now. But Maritime Safety Queensland has a really good system in place, so they're managing all those. So we've had a cargo ship off Mackay with two people confirmed positive on it and they have been taken off that ship and they're actually going to be flown down to Brisbane and be managed in Brisbane and now we've got three people off that original ship that are now in the Townsville Hospital. The two initial ones and then at the day 10 testing we found another case. So they've been taken off that ship. So there is three from one ship and two from another.

**REPORTER:**

A question for the Premier. For the young people in Queensland, it is a Saturday night, people want to go out, what is your message to them? Should they be staying home?

**PREMIER:**

Oh look, I think my message to young people is if they're going somewhere that has a COVID Safe Plan, that's fine. If you're thinking about having a party at home, that's not fine this weekend. If you can just catch up with a few friends that would be my advice, but going out in a COVID-safe environment is alright, but practise your social distancing. Time and time again I see a lot of young people hugging each other and embracing each other. That's not the time to do it this weekend. We all need to play our part. Okay.

**[ENDS]**

Released under RTI - DPC

Engagement: Press conference

Speaker/s: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Youth Justice Director-General Bob Gee, and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 22 August 2020

Duration: 34 minutes, 25 seconds

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### *E&OE*

#### **PREMIER:**

Well today we have some really important messages for Queenslanders, especially people living in the south-east. So, as we know we had the confirmed positive case at the youth detention centre and we immediately set about putting our plans in place to ensure that we did comprehensive testing. That testing has now produced more positive results. That means that we now have six additional positive cases relating to the cluster at the youth detention centre. In addition, we have three extra positives from crew members on ships. We are not worried about the crew members on the ships because they are being taken care of and they are no concern to us. We are concerned about the now total of seven positive cases linked to the youth detention cluster. We're concerned about this cluster because people have been out and about in the community. So today I'm asking people in these local government regions to listen very carefully to Dr Young because we are going to be giving some very important messages. The first message we will be giving people is that effective immediately, gatherings in your home will be reduced to 10 people. Gatherings outside, for example, in parks will be limited to 10 people. And that includes people living in the areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, Moreton Bay and Redlands. To everyone else outside Queensland we will be limiting those home gatherings to 30 people and to 30 people in outside areas such as parks.

What we are concerned about is that these people have been out and about in the community so what we also need are Queenslanders to realise, especially in south east Queensland, is that if you have any symptoms whatsoever, we need you to get tested now. We'll be standing up additional fever clinics in SEQ, they will be on a website and we encourage you, if you are sick, if you have any symptoms, to get tested. This is a very important time especially over the next couple of days and of course, we do expect there could be even more cases linked to this cluster. But we will not know those until the further results come in. I want to assure everyone that we have been planning for this and we have all of our management systems in place. The processes that are being deployed at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre are first class. I'm absolutely of confident with Bob Gee's experience that he is managing the centre, the staff and the children are being well looked after at the centre. I don't want anyone to be concerned about that. To the people who have now received a positive result, we wish you all the very best and we will be making sure that we look after you and your families. But now

my job is to look after all of Queensland and the south east Queensland. And that means we need to limit those gatherings.

The other measures we're putting in place today as well is that aged care homes will also in those regions go into a lockdown. They were contacted overnight and that is taking effect immediately and Dr Young will talk about that in more detail. I will handover to Dr Young to go through in more details about these individual cases, the suburbs where these people are from, because I think it is very important that people in those suburbs know to take extra precautions if they are feeling sick or unwell. So, we'll get through this together. I'm confident we will if everybody listens to the messaging, listens to Dr Young and we all play our part to keep everyone safe. It is very important that cafes and restaurants have their COVID Safe Plans in place, and can I say thank you because the ones that I have been to have absolutely been doing that, but the key is absolutely social distancing. This weekend, if you are going to a shopping centre, and there is no social distancing, you should leave immediately. Social distancing is incredibly important. It is our biggest weapon against this disease. I'll handover to Dr Young and then the Deputy Premier will make some comments and then we'll hand over to Bob Gee and the State Disaster Coordinator.

### **DR YOUNG:**

Thank you. So we now have seven cases associated with the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. I'm going to go through those seven cases so people know where these individuals live, that's important, but we also, of course, are contact tracing for each one of these cases to work out where in the community they've been and we will be putting out public health alerts if there are any significant risks where people have been for that period of time that we're always concerned about. So if people remember, if you have been in close contact with someone for 15 minutes, that means you're a close contact or if you've been in a room for more than two hours with the person. So we don't have all that information at this stage. We will be gathering that over the next 24 hours.

So, the seven individuals who have tested positive so far related to this cluster are that first individual who lives in Bundamba who was at work and we know about her, she was notified a few days ago. And may I please commend her because she has been very, very helpful with us and there are not any areas that she has been that I'm particularly concerned about at all. So, I thank her and her family for their assistance that they have been giving us over the last few days. Then we have got a second gentleman who worked in the centre and became sick at around at the same time and he lives Marsden. A third gentleman who works in the centre and also does some work for QBuild and has been doing work at the Springwood School, who's been working through contact tracing there, and we will be working with the school as to whether or not they will be able to open on Monday. He lives in Carindale. His wife, his partner, has already tested positive as well. So she is the seventh case. Then we have another gentleman who works in the centre who lives in North Ipswich who also works in a disability accommodation service. So we're working through with that service what that means. Then we have a relative of that gentleman who was in the Ipswich Hospital. So I will be talking about the Ipswich Hospital a bit more in a moment. So we're doing contact tracing there. That's our fifth case. The sixth case is another female worker at the Brisbane Youth Detention

Centre who lives in Forest Lake. So there are seven cases at the moment that we've confirmed positive related to the Brisbane detention youth centre.

So we are going through and continuing to test every single youth person in that centre, youth resident. None of them have come back positive, but we are still awaiting a few results and we are going through and gradually testing the more than 500 workers who work in that centre. Not every day, of course, so we're just working through the different days, but in the end we will test every single worker who works or has any involvement in that centre. Now because as you heard, I will repeat the suburbs where these people live. Remembering, of course, people have been outside their suburbs into a broader area, but those suburbs are Marsden, Carindale, North Ipswich and Forest Lake.

Now, because of the extent of this and because we want to as our plans have said right from the start to get on top of this as quickly as we possibly can, that's why I've advised that we need to immediately in all of Brisbane, so Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, the Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, Lockyer Valley – so the whole Greater Brisbane area, so not the Gold Coast and not the Sunshine Coast. So that Greater Brisbane area that I've asked and we will be implementing as soon as this press conference is finished, that people can only gather in groups of 10. That is because we've got excellent COVID Safe Plans. I have seen them myself. I have seen all the plans. They are excellent. For our commercial venues, for our pubs and clubs and restaurants and cafes, we have got excellent COVID Safe Plans for our community sport, for our sporting facilities and I'm very confident about those, but I know that people will do things differently in their own home – of course, they will. So, that's why people can only have gatherings of 10 in their own homes, so we go back to where we were back in March, April. Now, outside of the Greater Brisbane area, I need people to reduce their gathering size to 30 because at the moment, of course, we are contact tracing every single youth resident who has been in the centre and where they've gone, when they've left the centre over the last several weeks to see whether there is any issues there.

So, this is a really important action that we need to take this weekend. I'm confident that we'll manage it. We'll get on top of it, but it is by doing these things that we'll do that. A few things I instituted last night because, of course, I'm most concerned about the most vulnerable in our community. So last night I asked in that Greater Brisbane area that all of our aged care facilities go back to having no visitors, that our disability accommodation services, not have visitors and I've asked our hospitals, our emergency departments in our hospitals, to use personal protective equipment for every single patient they see because at the moment we don't know who may have the infection because it is out there in our community. We've clearly got community spread. So I need to protect the other people who are coming to emergency departments, so I assure every Queenslanders our emergency departments are safe. You can go there for care. We've put extreme, if I can put it like that, processes in place in our emergency departments to ensure that every single person who attends our emergency department is safe. Then I have asked at the Ipswich Hospital, because if you remember one of those seven cases was in the Ipswich Hospital, so I've asked the Ipswich Hospital to use personal protective equipment throughout their hospital until we get on top of this. I'm just being ultra-cautious because I believe that is the best way we can all be to manage this and I want every Queenslanders, particularly those in Greater Brisbane to be ultra-cautious this weekend.

So, follow your own plans. I know Queenslanders are very, very good at planning for any situation. So, follow your plans. You know if you're at higher risk were you to get this infection. This is maybe the weekend to have a weekend at home if you think you're a higher risk individual and for those people who are out and about, by all means, out and about, but maintain social distancing. That is really important. Everyone knows about the 1.5 metres. If you maintain 1.5 metres from someone who is clearly not coughing, sneezing or sick, that's in plenty of room so that you are very, very, very unlikely to get infected. Wash your hands regularly, as we know people can cough on surfaces, pick it up, touch their face. So, do those two things. That's really important and then, of course, the most important message of all, if you're sick, particularly at the moment, if you're sick with any symptoms at all, no matter how mild, stay home, isolate yourself and get yourself tested as soon as possible. We've stood up a lot of additional clinics. They are around. Go on the website and you will be able to see the one closest to you. So get yourself tested, stay home, isolate yourself – that's absolutely critical. If we do those things, we will manage this as we've managed it before. I have no concerns there. So just, all take those messages. If you're sick, stay at home, get tested and if you're out a about maintaining social distancing at all times. Thank you.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you Premier, thank you Dr Young. The nine new cases that we are reporting in Queensland today brings our total number of active cases currently to 15. Three of those are crew from cargo ships off the coast near Townsville and Mackay. The other six as you've heard are related to this cluster at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Four worked at the centre. Two are relatives of those who worked at the centre. They live and work across a range of suburbs in the southern suburbs of Brisbane and in Ipswich. Our message to Queenslanders today is that this is precisely what we have been planning for. Our rapid response capability has already been deployed. Our contact tracers are working and did work through the night. The state health emergency coordination centre, our public health units as well as, of course, the Chief Health Officer and her team have been working with Youth Justice to ensure that any possible contacts are being traced right now. These new restrictions apply throughout the Metro North, Metro South and West Moreton Hospital and Health Services. Aged care facilities in those districts have already been locked down to visitors as have disability accommodation providers, our hospitals throughout those regions have escalated their protective equipment rules and usage. The gathering limits that the Chief Health Officer has just outlined apply immediately. That is a limit of 10 people at any venue without a COVID Safe Plan in those regions as well as a limit of 30 outside of those regions. Of course, community sport, pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants all have COVID Safe Plans, so they can continue to have gatherings greater than those numbers, but it is important that they strictly apply those plans particularly social distancing and the collection of contacts and contact details across this weekend. It is incredibly important that people in Brisbane, Greater Brisbane and Ipswich apply all of the rules we have been repeating these seven months, in particular social distancing.

We tested 9447 people in the last 24-hour period, but we need to test more over this weekend. So, anyone in the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas with any symptoms at all are urged to attend one of the testing locations. There are literally dozens of testing locations. We ramped up our capacity to test in those regions after the recent outbreak related to women who

returned from Melbourne to Logan. You can visit the Queensland Health website. It has a list of all of those testing locations. We urge anyone with any symptom to go and get tested. There will be, likely, more cases over the weekend. In fact, if there are cases out there, we hope we find them and it is testing and people's willingness to go and get tested that will ensure that we do find them so that we can isolate them, treat them, contact anyone who has been in contact with them and avoid any further spread from this outbreak.

**BOB GEE:**

Can I just make a shout out to the community and thank them for their support for youth detention workers. This morning we have five staff members at the youth detention centre that have tested positive to COVID and two cases related to those. So, a shout out to those individuals. They have our total support. Can I talk about the youth justice system generally though? We're in a very, very strong position. The number of young people in this state that have been convicted of offence in the last year has dropped by 23 per cent. We have more beds than we have capacity at Cleveland. There are only five young people on remand in watch houses in the state. Can I say that legislation, legislative changes made through the emergency COVID session earlier in the year has put myself and the department in a great position to be able to bring in extra resources. Can I also say that we're working very closely with the state disaster coordination group to make sure that we have the resources we need, and that young people and staff are well cared for. Can I say to the family, friends and all of those that care about all of the young people we care for, that they are well looked after, that they have been talking to families, that as staff results have come in later today, we will be able to do more to let those young people have more access to activities. Can I also make a really big shout out to the nurses and health staff that have been at the youth detention centre. They have been around the clock helping us with PPE and those things. God bless them, they are doing a great job for us. We couldn't get through it without them. I'm going to close by saying a couple of little things about the young people that are out there. They have been particularly patient and well-behaved, and I wanted to thank them for the behaviour that they're showing.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. May I start with saying that as the Deputy Premier has indicated we have planned for and exercised for this very contingency. There are significant resources that we are bringing to bear from across Government to enable us to ensure that we can contact trace, lockdown, isolate and quarantine the people that need to be as a result of this outbreak. Those resources are in play now. That will not have any impact on our ability to police our borders or indeed to maintain the quarantines or in fact, for police officers to do their normal duties. We are using our disaster management arrangements. They work well for us, that's how we get our coordination right and of course we are standing up more completely our State Disaster Coordination Centre to support the state health emergency coordination centre and control centre. This is a health-led response. In particular resources from Queensland Police and Queensland Correction Services are helping Youth Justice to make sure the centre at Wacol remains secure, safe and the young people are looked after. Additionally, resources from across government, in particular the Queensland Police Service, to assist with contact tracing so that we can quickly identify all of those persons that are out there that we need to



locate and able to test. Can I say with respect to the new restrictions - as you heard they are in place immediately. So the message to the community is that we will take this seriously from a policing prospective. Of course, as we have always throughout the response, we will act with compassion, use communication, but we need your compliance and for anyone who blatantly decides to disregard those restrictions, there will be consequences. So please work with us. As you heard the social distancing is absolutely important for us to make sure that we can limit the spread of COVID. With respect to the fever clinics that are open, please exercise patience. If you're aware they're there in that area, don't go there unless it is for the point to get tested. We will have Police resource on the ground to make sure that people conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. So as you have heard there it is probably a good day or a good weekend for us all to take a breath and see what is happening and limit the amount of time we spend in the community. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Any questions anyone has for anyone in particular?

**REPORTER:**

Will you be releasing lists of where these people have gone in public [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, so the contact tracing is underway and as we get that information we will absolutely be letting the community know.

**REPORTER:**

So to confirm five workers have tested positive and two relatives?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, correct Lydia.

**REPORTER:**

So all this information that we now have that was read out just then, is that available to the public right now?

**PREMIER:**

Well hopefully it has been conveyed exactly to the public as we have received it, yes. And we will be getting the details of where the fever clinics are and it is very important this weekend if anyone is feeling sick, whatsoever, stay at home and get tested, maintain that social distancing and if you don't need to be in crowded places this weekend, do not be in crowded places if you live in those council regions that we read out.

**REPORTER:**

One of the new cases worked at the Springwood State School [inaudible] high school. Is there any plans to set up fever clinics there?

**PREMIER:**

We're working through that at the moment. So Dr Young will give more information about that as the day progresses.

**REPORTER:**

How concerned are you about the disability services facility that [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Look we're concerned about any contacts that any of these people may have had. Let's also bear in mind too that we may get further cases of workers at the detention centre and as Dr Young and Bob said, you know, these workers do an incredible job for our community and we hope that they can get through this. But it is really important that we get the information out to the public as it comes to hand, our contact tracers, we have an amazing army of contact tracers out there. They have been planning for this. They do this meticulously. Our Queensland Disaster Management Committee will be meeting later this morning. That's the committee we stand up for when we have bushfires and cyclones and floods. It is well executed in this state. We have run it many, many times. I'm very confident that all of the agencies are working incredibly closely together and that has come through years of working together on things such as natural disasters.

**REPORTER:**

And with these limits of 10 people, does that include places like gyms, etc?

**PREMIER:**

No, because the gyms the gyms would have COVID Safe Plans. Gyms, restaurants, cafes, bars, they have COVID Safe Plans in place. This is where there is no COVID Safe Plan and, for example, gatherings in your home or gatherings in public places such as parks.

**REPORTER:**

I have a question for Dr Young if that's okay. You mentioned that the Marsden man became sick about the same time as that first case. Does that mean he might have infected the 77-year-old woman?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, because they became sick around at the same time.

**REPORTER:**

Are we any closer to finding out how this might have started?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. So we're doing genomic sequencing as we speak and we should have those results at the end of next week, and that will give us a better idea of where this strain of the virus has originated.

**REPORTER:**

Do we know yet, Dr Yong, whether or not these cases are linked to the women that went to Melbourne at all?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, that's the genomic sequencing that's underway. So we should have some idea by the end of the week.

**REPORTER**

Is the Government exploring the possibility that the 77-year-old caught coronavirus from a child at the youth centre?

**DR YOUNG:**

We're exploring all possibilities at the moment. That's all part of that contract tracing. When we contact trace, we don't just contact that particular person and who they have been in contact with going forward to see who's at risk, we also contact trace going backwards to see where the person has got it from.

**REPORTER:**

Has there been any tests returned that indicate a child may have had it at the youth detention centre prior to this?

**DR YOUNG:**

So we're doing serology testing at the moment of every child in the centre, and we haven't go those final results.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] how many of the tests have come back, out of the staff in the [inaudible], are you able to say how many have been tested with no result?

**DR YOUNG:**

That work is happening this morning. So, we've got those results overnight. So I know the positives this morning, but I don't know all the negatives if that makes sense because there is a lot of negatives out there. We've tested well over 7000 people. So we just have to methodically go through the negatives now.

**REPORTER:**

Do you expect that we're going to see more and more cases coming through for the next week or so after this?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think there is a significant chance we will see more cases which is why we need to go and ask everyone to really adhere to social distancing and to get tested.

**REPORTER:**

If we're going to jump on this properly right now, could this be the start of a second wave for Queensland?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is too early to comment on that. We're at seven cases, and because, in Queensland, we jump on things at seven cases, I sincerely believe we will get on top of it because Queenslanders have always responded very, very well to the message. So the message for this weekend is for everyone just to be ultra-cautious. We've got brilliant plans in place. We didn't have these plans in place the last time that we started to see some cases. We do this time, which is why we can keep all of those commercial enterprises and all of those community sporting going because we've got really good plans. So everyone, adhere to the plans this weekend. That's really, really important and maintain social distancing. If you can't maintain social distancing, think about is this the time to be doing whatever it is you're doing. Or maybe wait, and, of course, if you have any symptoms, get tested. Today, in Brisbane, I can clearly say in Brisbane and in Ipswich, if you have got symptoms of the flu, it is most likely to be COVID, not flu. We have got very, very little flu in our community and we have these seven cases of COVID.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, are you concerned with, I guess the spread of where these positive cases are? Right from Carindale, North Ipswich – like it seems spread right across Brisbane, are you concerned about that? And is that the reason why the area of the gatherings limited to 10 people is so great [inaudible] when the outbreak is only in some spots?

**DR YOUNG:**

Exactly, and I want to get on top of this very, very quickly. So although we don't have suburbs in the northern part of Brisbane involved, I don't know that these people haven't been across the northern side of Brisbane. So that's why, we've just declared, all of Greater Brisbane and Ipswich, West Moreton as being of concern.

**REPORTER:**

This is the first step in terms of tightening restrictions. Could the restrictions be tightened further? Could we see further restrictions come into place if the case numbers continue to rise?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's always a possibility, but I believe we have got really good COVID Safe plans. I have been going through them now for months and they are very, very impressive. So as long as people adhere to the plans and work with businesses, because that's the feedback I sometimes get from businesses, that people themselves don't fully understand the importance. So, this is the weekend for everyone to just follow those COVID Safe Plans and leave all their contact details and leave them, not in my writing, my writing is illegible, it's awful. I'm very careful when I leave my details at all of these places. Make sure you leave them legible so that someone can easily pick it up, and see the phone number - and I always think in this day and age, a mobile phone number is a great way of contacting someone - email as well, and the

name. That's just critical and people have done it really well. We saw in one of the last cases that there were only two out of over 1000 that we couldn't interpret the writing. So that's good, but everyone please use your best writing and really capture it. A lot of places

are now using QR Codes and doing some really, really innovative stuff. So please use that, but just make sure wherever you go and you're going to be there for that 15 minutes or longer, that you leave your details so that we can then very quickly, we have got a great team of contact tracers and we have got enormous numbers of them, but the quicker we've got your information, the quicker we can let you know and the quicker then you can protect your family because unfortunately we don't have enough people who have loaded that COVIDSafe app. It is a weekend for everyone to go and download it. It is a really good initiative. I've done it because I want to know the second I've potentially been in contact with someone who has got COVID-19. So, please, everyone, if you haven't already, load that app, but keep putting your details out there.

**REPORTER:**

What's your advice to people who are elderly, you know, might be going through cancer treatments, do they just stay at home for the next week or so? No shopping centres, no restaurants – is that right?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So that's why I was saying earlier. I'm sure that Queenslanders have thought this through. They always do. Queensland is always very well prepared. So everyone should think about their personal COVID-safe plan and if they're in that vulnerable group, start thinking about how they can manage themselves. So, we've had lots of offers with the Care Army, there is lots of processes in place to help those elderly, vulnerable and those other people who are immuno-compromised. So this weekend I suggest that you really think about staying at home if you're one of those vulnerable groups. Definitely, definitely, don't go anywhere where you can't maintain social distancing.

**REPORTER:**

I have a question about the cargo ships. Are they all on the same ship and is that linked to the one off Townsville?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, we have got several cargo ships involved now. But Maritime Safety Queensland has a really good system in place, so they're managing all those. So we've had a cargo ship off Mackay with two people confirmed positive on it and they have been taken off that ship and they're actually going to be flown down to Brisbane and be managed in Brisbane and now we've got three people off that original ship that are now in the Townsville Hospital. The two initial ones and then at the day 10 testing we found another case. So they've been taken off that ship. So there is three from one ship and two from another.

**REPORTER:**

A question for the Premier. For the young people in Queensland, it is a Saturday night, people want to go out, what is your message to them? Should they be staying home?

**PREMIER:**

Oh look, I think my message to young people is if they're going somewhere that has a COVID Safe Plan, that's fine. If you're thinking about having a party at home, that's not fine this weekend. If you can just catch up with a few friends that would be my advice, but going out in a COVID-safe environment is alright, but practise your social distancing. Time and time again I see a lot of young people hugging each other and embracing each other. That's not the time to do it this weekend. We all need to play our part. Okay.

**[ENDS]**

Released under RTI - DPC

Engagement: Press conference

Topics: COVID-19 update

Speaker/s: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Youth Justice Director-General Bob Gee, and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

Date: 23 August 2020

Duration: 26 minutes, 40 seconds

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

Alright, good morning, everyone. Alright, so, I can report to Queensland that today we have only had two new cases overnight. This is a good result, but of course we're not out of woods yet. We have two new cases – one person is linked to one of the other cases, and case number nine is a male child, but Dr Young will give us more details about that. So we now have 16 active cases in Queensland. That brings our total to 1105, and the number of tests in the past 24 hours is 6875. So of course our message to Queenslanders, especially in those Local Government areas I mentioned yesterday, is that if you are sick, stay at home and get tested. We would like to see more tests conducted. I understand it is bitterly cold out there at the moment, but of course if you have any symptoms now is the time to get tested.

In relation to the testing of the staff members at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, we have had 202 results that have come back negative. Out of the young people at the youth detention centre, we have had 111 out of 131 come back negative. I have asked the Department to prioritise the testing of the staff members and the young people, and I would like to update Queensland tomorrow with a complete list of the results of those tests. Dr Young will also talk a little bit more today about the restrictions we have put in place.

We have had to act very quickly and swiftly in relation to, of course, aged care, hospitals and disability accommodation providers. This is going to be tough on a lot of families. I please ask for your patience and your understanding during this time. This is about the protection of your loved ones, first and foremost, and as soon as we can lift those restrictions we will. But we have to put those measures in place because the last thing we would want to see is an outbreak at any of those places. Can I also reassure the public that businesses have in place COVID-safe plans. So it is absolutely fine for you to go and visit your local cafes and restaurants and businesses where they have COVID-safe plans in place.

Also too, I know that they would have been a lot of disappointed people out there – they would have had parties scheduled to be in their homes last night, I apologise for that, but of course we have to put public health, community health, your health first and foremost, and that is exactly what we did by taking that swift action that we had to do. We are not out of the

woods yet. We are taking it day by day. But those results overnight are very encouraging which is why we are prioritising those other results as quickly as possible.

The other thing that we will be putting up today as a public health alert of a number of places across southeast Queensland. This is the work I contact tracers have done, and it is very important that members of the public and families familiarise yourselves with these lists very carefully to see if you have been into one of these places. It is a very comprehensive list. We will be releasing those two pages following this press conference, and please take the time to have a look. If you have been to any of those places and you do have any symptoms, it is very important that you go and get tested because we all have a duty to ensure that we are protecting, not only our families, but also the broader community at large. And there is a whole range of issues. I cannot go through the list here at the moment because it is too comprehensive, but it does involve a whole range of suburbs, including Browns Plains, Mount Gravatt, Forest Lake, Marsden, Greenbank, Crestmead and Camp Hill, just to name a few. There are more suburbs, of course there and the times that people went to those particular establishments, whether they are takeaway shops, service stations, shopping centres. But please take your time to have a look at that list and we will be trying to put also out a community alert to the public to make sure they are familiar with that.

So I will leave it there and handed over to Dr Young and then the Deputy Premier, and then of course you will hear from Bob Gee, our Director-General from Youth Justice, and our State Disaster Coordinator will give us an update about borders as well. Thank you.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So first, thank you to all of those Queenslanders who came out yesterday. It was a very cold day for Queensland, and I know that was a big effort. That is really important, and if Queenslanders could keep doing that. The most important message is, if you are unwell, to stay at home and get yourself tested as soon as you can. That is really important, particularly as we work through this particular outbreak.

So this outbreak, we are now up to nine cases. The last two cases were confirmed late yesterday, overnight, but both of those cases are related to one of the seven cases we already knew about. So we do not have any expansion of that cluster, which is good news. But it is far, far too early for us to relax. For the next week, it is just so critical that if anyone is unwell, they immediately get themselves tested so we can confine this new cluster as much as we possibly can.

Police colleagues have done a brilliant job over the last 24 hours going out across the state to find any of the youth who have been discharged from that facility since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, and we are gradually finding all of those and testing them. None of those youths have tested positive, which is really good news for across the state. We will continue to test all of the youths in the centre. We have nearly tested all of them and get results. There are just a few outstanding, but all who were tested to date have tested negative. And similarly, we have been testing all of the staff. There are a lot of staff who work at that centre – over 500, not every day, of course – but we need to manage those. And of those staff work in multiple other places. This is why this cluster is such a risk to us and we need to really focus the next few days.



So, so far, I will just remind you of the suburbs that the cases so far live in. But they have been to many, many different places, as one would expect. For a while now we have not had community transmission so people have been moving around the community broadly, which is very, very appropriate, and we hope to get back to that position soon. But the suburbs these people do live in – Bundamba, Marsden, Carindale, North Ipswich, and Forest Lake, but as the Premier said, there will be a list going out of all the places that these people have visited, and they have visited a lot of places outside those areas.

So today, we now in Queensland have nine cases related to that cluster. We have a total of 16 active cases across the state with 1105 people to date in Queensland having had COVID-19. There are five people in hospital, none in intensive care, and yesterday we tested 5388 people and I thank every single one of those people for coming forward to get tested, and I hope the weather is a bit better today so more people can come forward and get tested. We have got all of those clinics open, they are ready to have people come forward. The queues were not long, so please come forward if you have any symptoms at all. Remember, it is people with symptoms that are critical. If you are not sure, of course come forward and get tested, but if you have got symptoms you are the people we want to test. You are really important for us to test. Thank you very much.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

The fact that both additional cases of household members of existing known cases is very, very good news for Queensland. It means that they were already quarantining. But we need to do a lot more testing, particularly over the next week to two weeks.

In the past 24 hours we did 6875 tests, of which 3089 are across those HHSs we are concerned about – Metro North, Metro South and West Moreton. You will recall that in our rapid response phase to the last outbreak we peaked at around 20,000 tests per day, and so we need to test a lot, lot more people to be confident that we are finding any cases that are out there. That is why we are distributing a list this morning of a large number of locations where the now known cases have visited. We would urge everyone who lives in Brisbane and Ipswich to check that list, and if they have been to any of those places, to monitor their health very closely. If they have any symptoms whatsoever, they are the most important people to go and get tested, and in doing so they will assist us in lifting that testing rate in this rapid response stage. We need to be testing a lot more people than we did in the last 24 hour period.

**BOB GEE:**

Thanks Premier. Good morning everyone. Can I thank everyone for coming forward to be tested. And I encourage everyone to do that that needs to be done, particularly my staff. They have done a great job. We're thinking very of the staff that tested positive and their families. Can I give an operational update on how the centre intends to continue to operate? I'm very confident after the government gave us the powers earlier this year to be able to bring in an entirely new workforce. So this week, midweek, we will swap-in a completely new force led by the Department of Youth Justice. An Executive Director will come down from Townsville. There will be well over 100 Department of Youth Justice staff to move in. Police service, in fact a superintendent and others will come in as well – a man I have worked with

for over 35 years, so we are well placed there. The Department of Corrective Services as well will help us, as will a range of other agencies. So what we are going to do is swap-in a completely new workforce. Can I give an update about operations out at the centre? The young people are moving in and out of their cells in a very structured and targeted way so that they are not just in that room. So they are back indoors, in their little sections doing activities like table tennis etc. And can I thank them for the way they are behaving, and assure their families that they are getting the very, very best support. And can I thank Queensland Health for their support. Thanks everyone.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. I may start, if I may, with an overall update around operations in COVID. So in the last 24 hours we have seen 56 flights come into Queensland. 2998 passengers have been processed – five refused entry. At our road borders we have seen 3072 vehicles. We have turned around 162 persons. From that we have placed 271 persons into quarantine, which means at present we have 3013 people in hotel quarantine within Queensland.

Can I now move on to what is happening in terms of the new restrictions that came on yesterday? Obviously, yesterday morning people were a little confused about what was happening. Our officers and other parts of government have been out making sure that people get the message around what was required of them. Overall the compliance has been very good. We encourage the community to make sure that you stay connected with the messaging with what is happening. These things can change rather quickly, as it did yesterday. We need you to work with us. Overall the compliance has been very good, and we encourage people to keep doing that.

We did some fairly detailed policing of our Safe Night precincts – our liquor licensed premises overnight. Overall the compliance was quite high. We took no deliberate action. We had to give out a few warnings. What we are seeing is that people will do the right thing but too often we are having to remind them. So people out and about in the community are not thinking enough around what they should be doing in terms of their social distancing. And that includes when they are out socialising. So what we are seeing is very high compliance within licence premises according to their COVID-safe plans, but still people that are outside are not necessarily doing what we would like. So we will continue to do that, but the message to the community is please take responsibility for this. At the moment, while we try to deal with this outbreak we have to really be on top of our game.

So the only formal action we have had to take in the last 24 hours has been two on-the-spot fines for people misusing the X-pass trying to get into Queensland when they weren't in fact entitled to do. So overall it is tracking very well overall. As the Chief Health Officer mentioned, we have a taskforce working on locating all of the children that have been released. We have located approximately half of those and we aim to have all of them located and tested within the next day. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Are there any questions for anyone?

**REPORTER:**

That child that has tested positive. Can you give us any more details on how that child contracted it?

**PREMIER:**

I can't. But what I can say is my understanding is that the child is doing very well.

**REPORTER:**

The two new cases, are they both from the same household or from separate households?

**PREMIER:**

They are related to the same family.

**REPORTER:**

I appreciate that we have got that new PPE in stockpile...

**PREMIER:**

I am so glad we have got that stockpile, yes.

**REPORTER:**

We have health workers across Brisbane and Ipswich being instructed to wear full PPE. Will there be enough?

**PREMIER:**

Yes, we have more than enough. That is why we have that huge, enormous stockpile and I'm so glad that you got to see it the other week.

**REPORTER:**

Is there a reason for the delay in getting to those final residents? I think you are short testing the last 20 of those 130 residents. Is there a particular reason for that?

**PREMIER:**

Sorry, in terms of the staff and the young people?

**REPORTER:**

Yes. There is a certain number of those young residents who have not been tested.

**PREMIER:**

I think there is such a large number of tests that are happening across the region, but we asked if it can be prioritised. And of course there are private and public labs involved.

**REPORTER:**

In terms of keeping cafes and businesses open, obviously that is a huge priority for the economy. But in terms of, I guess, the concern that we could have much more community transmission because it is such a long period incubation period. Are you concerned that you may have to shut businesses down?

**PREMIER:**

We have no concern about that at the moment at all, so please do not be alarmist about that because the businesses have COVID-safe plans in place. This is a much different environment to where we were when the pandemic first started. Businesses have done a lot of work with the Chief Health Officer and we are confident with the plans that they have in place. What is very important is that people continue to do their social distancing when they are out and about, and of course avoid large crowds. So, like I said the other day, if you are going into shopping centre and it is crowded, avoid the crowds. I mean, we all have to do our part here.

Whilst I am here as well, can I also just mention also too, I was planning to take the Cabinet to the Far North to be in Cairns on Monday. Can I just say to the people of Far North, you are not forgotten? I understand that there are a lot of issues that you want to talk to the Cabinet about. I understand that the Far North has been impacted by international tourism being stopped and, of course, you are a key priority for our government. So we have postponed that until next week. I hope the people of the Far North would understand that I have to keep the Cabinet here to prioritise this. It is absolutely critical we get on top of these issues over the next week.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, just a moment ago you said people should be avoiding crowds in shopping centres and such places like that...

**PREMIER:**

If they see a large number of crowds, like they just need to keep their social distancing.

**REPORTER:**

Sure. But that is admitting that there are these large crowds forming in places like shopping centres. So it is confusing to say that you can only have a maximum of 10 people in a group, even in an outdoor area, but you are also saying yes, there is crowding in certain places like shopping centres.

**PREMIER:**

The businesses have COVID-safe plans in place. So what we are saying is, if you are seeing crowds you should avoid those crowds. What we have seen in southern states, especially like in Victoria, a lot of transmission happened in the family homes where large families were gathering. That is why we have immediately reduced those gathering numbers in homes. So we have looked at the evidence and we are acting on the evidence in the best interests of people.

**REPORTER:**

Is the government looking at any... It doesn't sound like you are looking at restrictions for cafes and businesses, but are there any other restrictions in general that the government is considering?

**PREMIER:**

Not at this stage, no. We are focused on getting the testing done. But also too, it is absolutely imperative that people in southeast Queensland look at that list and see, go through that list and check if you been to any of those areas recently, and if you have any symptoms today would be a good day to go and get tested.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, how do you think this little cluster is going to affect Queensland's chances of hosting the AFL grand final?

**PREMIER:**

I think what everybody knows is we have world-class management systems, and we also have dedicated contract tracers. And as you can see we are throwing everything we can at this, as we do every time we have a cluster.

**REPORTER:**

Do you think we are a frontrunner?

**PREMIER:**

I am not commenting on that. The AFL has not made any decisions to date, and we will await those decisions from the AFL.

**REPORTER:**

Have you got any further updates as to how this outbreak started at Case Zero?

**PREMIER:**

No, but I might handover to Dr Young because, of course, they are doing some testing on that. So I might handover to her if there are no other questions for me? Okay.

**DR YOUNG:**

So we are currently sequencing the genome of the virus in the people in this cluster, and we also have already done that for the people in that Melbourne-Logan cluster. And once we have got this new cluster sequenced – and we expect to have that at latest by the end of the week – then we will be able to compare the two clusters and see if they are related.

**REPORTER:**

Do you think they somehow might be linked? I mean, given that we have such border controls they came from somewhere else?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. We have got to wait for that work to be done. It is too early to suggest one answer or the other.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, it takes about 24 hours for a test to come back, so all those people who came forward yesterday, do you expect we are going to see a surge in case numbers tomorrow?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know. We will wait and see, but it is reassuring that we have only had those two additional cases. But the next week is absolutely critical.

**REPORTER:**

And what sort of things will you be looking out for?

**DR YOUNG:**

Just increased case numbers.

**REPORTER:**

In terms of that date for testing in the youth detention centre, you are going all the way back to July 22. That is such a long period. Why are you going back so far?

**DR YOUNG:**

Because I am just being ultra-cautious, and because I've got enormous support here in Queensland. We have got fantastic systems and I am using every single system that I possibly can. So I am doing that. And police are amazing in what they can do and how they do it, so why wouldn't I use them?

**REPORTER:**

Swapping out that staff, obviously it is part of another work frame as to why it is happening, but it perhaps couldn't have come at a better time. Why is that so crucial, and are you confident that that will then will flush out any further contraction of the cases? Are you worried that that might infect the new staff potentially?

**DR YOUNG:**

No because we of course are using PPE for all of the new staff and the staff that are there in the centre. We are in a totally different position to what we were in back in March and April. We didn't have that massive stock of PPE so we had to be very careful we never ever ran out of PPE in Queensland. But we couldn't use it. We had to be very careful in how we used it. Now we can use it so that we are extra, extra cautious. So that is why we can do this. So we are continuing to involve some staff in the centres, and current staff who do need to go into quarantine, but they have tested negative and they are 100 per cent well and they have got full PPE – that is, a mask, a shield, gowns, gloves – and they have been trained in how to use it. So I am very confident that we are not causing any ongoing problems there.

**REPORTER:**

And obviously we haven't seen that list, but judging by what the Premier says, she says it is very extensive.

**DR YOUNG:**

It is.

**REPORTER:**

Are you concerned that that could lead to dozens more cases in the coming days, given that people have travelled so far and wide?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. That is why I need everyone who lives anywhere in Greater Brisbane, so that's in the northern part of Brisbane, southern part of Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, that West Moreton-Redlands area – anyone who lives there with any symptoms at all to come forward immediately and get tested because these people, appropriately so, we didn't have community transmission, they were just out and about living their normal lives. And people move around, that is why it is really, really critical.

**REPORTER:**

Just going back to the children in the youth detention centre. Can I just clarify? You said before that 111 of those children's tests have come back negative. That outstanding number of children, their tests are pending or they haven't been conducted yet?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. They have been pending.

**REPORTER:**

So what has been the delay there? Because if we have the capacity to test rapidly 20,000 people in the state, why is there an issue with less than 200?

**DR YOUNG:**

Just getting into the centre and managing each child. There are individual circumstances. But all of those children are being managed in that centre. They are not going out to the community, so there isn't a risk there. We will just methodically get through and test all of them. I am actually more concerned about the children that have already left the centre, and they are the ones that have been tracked down across the entire state.

**REPORTER:**

Are they refusing tests, some of these younger kids?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. We are just working with them. No one has refused a test. They have been excellent.

**REPORTER:**

Is it possible that we could have asymptomatic cases in the community? Seeing what people get tested, they have got symptoms, is it possible that people might not have symptoms?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is possible, but we know that those asymptomatic cases don't lead to chains of transmission. So we are getting more and more evidence. So you have got to remember we are now seven months into this, so we have got a lot more evidence than we had at the start. So I am not worried about those asymptomatic ones. The best advice overseas is that maybe

around 20 per cent of people might be asymptomatic. But then a lot of them go on to get symptoms and that is the time we should catch them. So I don't want to have broad asymptomatic testing. That is a waste of everyone's resources and that won't help us. I want people with symptoms to come forward because they are far, far, far more likely to have the infection than someone without symptoms. So let's focus on the people with symptoms.

**REPORTER:**

[Inaudible] develop those symptoms over the next couple of weeks?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. Remember the incubation period from point of exposure to when you might get it is 14 days. But the vast majority are five to six days, but 14 days is the period that we use.

**PREMIER:**

Alright. Last question for Lydia for the Deputy Commissioner. There we go.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yes Lydia.

**REPORTER:**

With the new restrictions brought in yesterday, were a lot of people dobbing-in their neighbours and stuff for having house parties?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

No. No, we haven't seen anything like that yet. I actually think by the time we got to the end of yesterday people were pretty good. I've checked with our people on the ground and they said the compliance overall was good. There was some confusion earlier, that's not surprising. Look, the message is really clear here. We have got people in the community that have had this disease and been tested positive for it. Everyone understands what we need to do now. Of course there will be some that sometimes do the wrong thing and our police know how to deal with that. But at the moment, everyone is doing the right thing. Please keep doing it.

**REPORTER:**

Did we see police walking through parks yesterday breaking up groups, that kind of thing?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Generally speaking, the people that they do have to speak to were not aware of the changes and we were able to communicate with them and they were compliant. So we didn't need to take action.

**REPORTER:**

Just on that, there is more than 700 people who indicated their interest for a picnic [inaudible] rights in the Botanic Gardens this afternoon. What is your message to them?



**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I've spoken to the officers involved and I said we should oppose any unlawful protests as much as we can. Obviously we will work within the legislation we have at our disposal, but now is not the time and that is probably not the way to protest. Thank you.

**PREMIER:**

Thanks everyone.

[ENDS]

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Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young and Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

One new case, that is a relative of a confirmed case and Dr Young will talk a little more about that shortly. That means we have 18 active cases, our total confirmed cases is 1106 and there were over 6300 tests in the last 24 hours. Can I thank everyone for coming out and getting tested, but of course it is very critical over the next seven to 14 days, if you have any symptoms whatsoever, please go and get tested, it is absolutely critical that everyone follows these messages. I can confirm that all of the young people at the detention centre have now been tested. We are awaiting just a few results there, and all of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre staff have been tested, except for 16 and we are working on those people as a matter of priority. Of course all schools are open today which is great news, and yesterday some people may have received emergency alerts, we are letting people know in those particular suburbs where some of our confirmed cases have visited that if you develop any symptoms to go and get tested. So I think we are getting all of the direct messaging out as quickly as possible, and there are a lot of fever clinics that are set up across the southeast, so if you are feeling sick at all, please, please go and get tested. I will hand over to Dr Young and then we're happy to take some questions after we go through everyone else.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So, one new case overnight who is the relative of one of the workers at the centre. So, that is a close contact and she was placed into quarantine on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we will now work with her to just sort out her infectious period and whether that means we need to let people know of any other places that potentially are a risk. So, it is very important though, you would've seen the list of the many, many places across Greater Brisbane and West Moreton and Logan that people who have been infectious have visited. There are so many places that really it is about if you've got any symptoms at all, come forward and get tested. This is the time to do it. Thank you very much to all of those people who did come forward in the last 48 hours, that has been excellent but we do need more people with symptoms to come forward, we need to track this virus down where it has been. It is an infectious virus, as we all know and we need to act quickly, promptly to be able to contain it. Now, I have put in place some new arrangements with our hospitals, so I have asked our hospitals, and we're going out this morning to primary care to recommend that they consider using masks within their facilities for all patients, visitors and staff. We just need to manage this as we go forward. So for that area of Greater Brisbane, so Metro North, Metro South and West Moreton, those three hospital and health services, that this is the time to implement mask usage broadly within the facilities. We can do that because of the enormous work that has been done since the start of this pandemic to put in place local manufacturing of masks so we have enough masks to do this, and so as a precaution, not because I think there has

been any great escalation, just as a precaution that I want this in place throughout our facilities. And there is some other things that people need to continue to adhere to, we've seen with this cluster we now have five workers at the centre and five of their relatives have already been infected, we know that spread within households is what you always will see at the start of a new cluster which is why we put in place that requirement to limit gatherings to 10. It is really important that within households, within private gatherings, maximum of 10 people because it is that closeness that we know will lead to spread of the virus. That is extremely important. Outside this immediate area of concern of Brisbane and Ipswich, gatherings have been limited to 30. Now for the rest of our society, as long as people follow those COVID Safe Plans, I've been through all of them, I know how good and solid they are, then I think they are fine. If people don't follow the COVID Safe Plans, that is when we'll have to consider what else might need to be done, but at this point in time I am very confident that with those plans rolled out – they've all been in place for quite a while now so people know what they're doing – that we don't need any further restrictions. So it is just those gatherings of 10 people that is really important, and adhering to COVID Safe Plans, so everyone please throughout the state, any symptoms, come forward, get tested and isolate yourself – that is really important – and maintain social distancing wherever you can. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, is it time for possibly the wider community to start wearing masks, quite apart from the hospital community?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think that this is the time, because we know we've got the masks out there, that everyone should consider, if they can't maintain social distancing, that it is time to use a mask. So if you are in a crowded situation that you can't get out of, put a mask on. So I think as I've been suggesting for some time, a bit of hand sanitiser in your back pocket or your handbag and a mask with it. And if you get yourself into a situation where you cannot socially distance, it is time to consider using a mask. I am not going to mandate it because I don't believe we have broad spread community transmission, but certainly we are in a risky period at this time, so within Greater Brisbane and Ipswich, within those areas, it is time to think about if you cannot maintain social distancing, wear a mask. Always remember, social distancing that 1.5 metres is far more effective than a mask. Masks are not totally foolproof, they will not protect you totally, whereas maintaining social distancing and washing your hands will protect the vast majority of people in the vast majority of situations.

**REPORTER:**

Are we getting closer to working out how the original worker – the 77-year-old woman – contracted?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, but I hope to get that answer fairly soon. We are waiting on the genomic sequencing of these cases and those cases that came from Melbourne.

**REPORTER:**

Could she have got it from somebody inside the youth facility?

**DR YOUNG:**

That is what I am working on at the moment. It is too early to say.

**REPORTER:**

Just with the testing numbers, when the first cluster was identified a couple of weeks ago, we saw numbers around the 20,000 mark, this is significantly less, is that a concern, what's your thoughts on that?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is a concern, but also I suspect people are starting to hear the message, I want to test people with symptoms. So I know you can have this disease without symptoms, but those people are very, very rarely a cause of a chain of transmission. It is the people with symptoms that are the really critical group, and it I think we're seeing more of the people coming forward actually are those people with symptoms and they're the really critical group. So I think that people are starting to understand the messages because they are very complex messages, they are really difficult messages. So, I think it is just we're seven months in now and people are hearing that, and people heard the first time and now they're hearing this message. I also suspect the weather might've had something to do with it. It was a really bad weekend for Brisbane, it was very, very windy, it was cold and I suspect a lot of people were at home. So, today and the days coming forward, I do want people to come out and get tested if they've got any symptoms at all.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, [inaudible] declare hotspots in parts of Brisbane and in Ipswich?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, I've essentially declared all of Brisbane and Ipswich a hotspot, a restricted area, whatever terminology you want to make. But it is Metro North, Metro South and West Moreton Hospital and Health Services, so that is all of those local government areas that sit in there. So Greater Brisbane, out to Redlands, including Logan and going out to Ipswich.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] does that mean that people in those... now that it is a declared hotspot shouldn't be travelling to other parts of the state?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is not a declared hotspot, it is a restricted area. It is an area where I've put restrictions in place in terms of hospitals, in terms of gatherings and in terms of getting people to be more alert and come forward and get tested. There is no restrictions in travel at this point in time, but of course the normal requirements remain. If people are sick, this is not the time to go travelling. So before anyone goes and leaves their home to move out of this area, or to go anywhere, they should think 'am I well?' and if I am not 100 per cent not well, that is not the time to be travelling.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young our friends in Townsville want to get an update on the cargo carrier [inaudible] there...is the testing done now, has [inaudible] recovered?

**DR YOUNG:**

So those cases that are in hospitals across the state so we've got those five cases out there yes, five cases. And the other cases are all in quarantine on those cargo ships and they will all go and get tested again prior to exiting from quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] two-year old girl who had open heart surgery wasn't allowed in has now been granted an exemption as of last night. Why was that [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

She was always, of course, allowed back into Queensland. She's a Queensland citizen as are her parents, so she was always allowed back in. Her initial request didn't convince me that her parents understood the necessity for quarantine. She must be quarantined with her family. So because they now fully understand that necessity and my concerns, so they've agreed to go into their home and to quarantine and we've got a lot of support in place to ensure that happens.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] serology tests come back with [inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes we do have serology tests back, but the problem with serology is that it's not definitive, it's not like the PCR tests that we know are due to this virus – serology can react to other coronaviruses so we just need to wait and see the subsequent test to know what that means...

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, there have been some indications yes. Several. As I said there's a lot of coronavirus out there...I mean there are four other coronaviruses circulating in our community, most of them just lead to a very minor cold. So we just need to work out what this means – it's too early to be definitive about any of those serology tests.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] just to be clear there are young detainees there who could have had it, but you can't be certain at this point...

**DR YOUNG:**

That's correct...that's correct

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] due to the numbers involved?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's hard to know – it really depends on people's socially distancing that they've had in place – I mean Queenslanders have been pretty good until now. We saw in the last cluster, from those three young women who went to Melbourne, that we only ended up with a total of five in that cluster. So this time it's too early to say, but the risk is definitely there. So it's really, really important that people maintain that social distancing. So we have had those people who have tested positive out in the community, out and about, you've all seen those long, long

lists of places they've been, so the risk is definitely there that we'll get another phase of cases. So we've had our first phase, which is the immediately contacts – the five workers in the youth centre – then we've got the next phase which is their relatives and close contacts. So we've had five there. We now have to be alert to the next phase which is why anyone who's out there needs to come forward and get tested straightaway.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young there was a rumour this morning that a relative of one of the women who went down to Melbourne [inaudible]...one of their relatives had been in the youth detention centre. Is that something you're aware of?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's all of the work that we've been working through at the moment in terms of all of the contact tracing, and I actually think that when I get the genomic sequencing, that's probably going to give me more of the answers than that other work. But that other work that is happening is also critical.

**REPORTER:**

In the last few days you have spoken about the people who have left the detention centre, how many are there, where have they been across the state, how many have been tested and how many are outstanding I guess...how many haven't you been able to find [inaudible]

**PREMIER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

I've got that answer...

[laughter]

I apologise...can I say that our police service in this state are absolutely brilliant. This is one of the real strengths of Queensland and I can say that other states don't have this same support because they have different systems. So good supports in other states, but we are just so fortunate. So the police in this state have found the families of the 92 youths who have been released from the detention centre from the time I have been concerned about. So those 92 they know where they are, they have actually contacted and physically laid eyes on 78 of those youth already, and have spoken to their guardians, parents, families for the others. And already, we've tested 42 of those. So we're well on track to get hold of all of them. Now can I just say to you, the 92 – and me being super, super cautious – these are people who have been discharged from the centre from the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, which you might remember is the date that those three women came back into Queensland and were in Queensland, so I've really been very cautious here. I think that most of those are not a risk, but just wanted to absolutely check on those.

**REPORTER:**

Have you granted new exemptions to farmers and agriculture businesses?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, I've been granting exemptions to farmers right from day one...agriculture is really, really important. Not only to our state, but to the rest of the country. We really are the food bowl for our nation, so that is just critical. And farmers have done so well in terms of managing all of those COVID-safe plans. They've done a really good job.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

So yes, I have granted a lot of exemptions.

**REPORTER:**

So individually...there's no blanket...

**DR YOUNG:**

There's blanket ones, and there's individual ones. Just because some of the farmers don't quite neatly fit into the general exemption I've made, so I've been giving them specific ones. So my advice to the farmers out there that if you don't fall under one of the general exemptions to come forward and ask for a specific one. We need our farming to continue. We also need our construction to continue and we need our resources sector to continue. And their COVID-safe plans have all been absolutely first class.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young [inaudible] do you have a total number of people in quarantine as a result of this cluster?

**DR YOUNG:**

I do but not in my brain I'm sorry!

**REPORTER:**

Is it a fair few though?

**DR YOUNG:**

It is...it is a lot.

**REPORTER:**

Is there any concern about capacity at the Ipswich Hospital? We've been contacted by people who work there and they say it's reaching capacity because aged care homes in the region [inaudible] accepting patients at the moment. Can you talk to us about that?

**DR YOUNG:**

All of our hospitals are reaching capacity. But they do that every winter, so they actually have a lot of spare capacity because they don't have the cases of flu they would normally be

expecting. They're all fine – they're managing it. That's what they do every single day. They do it very, very well. So I don't think anyone should be concerned that they won't get care at one of our hospitals?

**REPORTER:**

We had the Deputy Commissioner on a couple of...

**PREMIER:**

Can I just get the Deputy Premier to [inaudible] and then the Deputy Commissioner? Thanks.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thanks Premier. Look, clearly the fact that we are confirming just one case today and they were already in quarantine is a relief but there is a long way to go in managing this cluster. I particularly have a message to people in the Greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas. We need to test more people. 6834 tests in the last testing period is not enough for us to be assured that we are finding all of the cases that are out there. And I especially want to say to the people who might have already been tested earlier in the pandemic. We know a lot of people, particularly in Logan and the southern suburbs of Brisbane and Ipswich, got tested in the last cluster and they might think they don't need to do it again. But if they have any symptom at all I really urge them to come forward. Please do get tested again, for your own sake but also to help us assure ourselves that we are finding every case associated with this cluster.

**REPORTER:**

We're hearing two that will appear in court... two men are due to appear in court this morning for breaching restrictions. Are you aware of this?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Lane, we have a number of investigations underway. There's been people given notices to appear. Since we started there's been 19 of those issued. Happily there were no new PIN's issues in the last 24 hours and certainly no Notices to Appear. While I'm not aware of what that is specifically I would imagine it relates to one of the earlier matters.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So could I just start with some stats and then come back to Patrick maybe then? So in the last 24 hours we've met 37 flights. We have checked 1372 passengers and refused entry to three. At our road borders 2407 vehicles were intercepted. We refused entry to 156 persons. And on our quarantining from those borders we've put 75 into quarantine which brings the total number of persons in hotel quarantine in Queensland to 2084. Over the weekend we checked 512 licenced premises across the state. Did not take any formal action in relation to any of those. But could I pause on that to say that we are concerned by some of the behaviour in some our Safe Night Precincts. Particularly when people are out and about late. We've seen too many instances of people affected by alcohol misbehaving, assaulting police, assaulting



security guards and whilst this sort of thing may well happen in normal times in our community what's really clear is that this exacerbates the risk to our community at the moment. So no doubt, some have seen the vision of a particular incident over the weekend which is under investigation by Task Force Sierra Linnet. That is extremely disappointing that kind of behaviour. So the message to all of those persons, and a lot of them are young people I have to say – so sorry young people, is to have a think before you go out and think about the impacts of your not abiding by the social distancing in the community and what that means. So it's certainly putting our police under pressure in terms of trying to manage those areas. Because the licence premises by and large are doing the right thing. It's the people that are attending that still aren't quite getting the message that we'd like to see. The Premier I think mentioned the emergency alerts. We will monitor that today to see that impact it has on people attending the testing centres. There were 13 suburbs and 107,000 phones that were impacted by those. That was very targeted yesterday for those areas where we do have... we have had people with COVID into. So we will monitor that and see whether we need to do more in that space. All our planning around continuity for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre is really well underway. The quarantining of the workforce there and I'll leave that to Director-General Gee if he wants to comment more. We're very pleased with the progress in locating the young persons that have been released so excellent work done by our investigators across the state to track those young people down. As I mentioned there have been no infringement notices in the last 24 hours however we have four current investigations in our Task Force Sierra Linnet and six matters being overviewed that are being conducted across out region. So there are still people that are choosing to do the wrong thing. Most of that relates to border breaches. And since we've introduced the false declaration there's been something over 70... about 75 infringements issued for people lying on their border passes so that's still happening which is very disappointing. I'm going to leave it at that. If there's any questions around protest activity and the like the Commissioner's here today so she can deal with the policing matters. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Last night we featured footage of a kebab shop, everyone dancing in the kebab shop and there was also some footage of underground parties, Portuguese club at Pinkenba. Are you investigating that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Yeah, that's certainly the one I alluded to. We're aware of that vision. We have that. That's being coordinated by Task Force Sierra Linnet which is under my command as part of the COVID response. So we're taking that very seriously. And we're not just focusing on the people in the vision, we're also focusing on the businesses that were operating in that.

**REPORTER:**

The kabab shop and the underground party?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

All that will be completely investigated.

**REPORTER:**

Those emergency alerts are they...they're text messages are they?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

It's a text message that will come to a phone. The way it works is that we're able to identify geographic areas. It's based around cell towers basically and people will get a message. And the focus for this is very much, if you've got symptoms go and get tested.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, was one of the women who returned from Melbourne, was one of her relatives at the Brisbane Detention Centre?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I don't have that information. I can't comment on that. As Dr Young said, our contact tracing that we assist Health with, they lead that, is very, very detailed and we run it all out. and obviously, as there are more cases or more people that are identified there's more work that has to be done.

**REPORTER:**

Similar to last time, will police be stepping up their enforcement of that 10 person gathering in parks and public places?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Absolutely. And interventions over the weekend have largely been educative. So we've seen instances of people in parks and people not being aware and because we have got compliance, when we have spoken to people they have taken the advice of police and they have moved on. And I have to say that that's the disappointing thing about the liquor precincts as well, is that when police do intervene people do take notice and they do comply but do it up front. That's what we're trying to say. Don't wait to be told by the police.

**REPORTER:**

When will the fines begin? When will you start fining people?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

The fines will begin when people blatantly ignore the Chief Health Officer's directions. That could happen anytime.

**REPORTER:**

May I ask the Commissioner some questions if that's okay? Earlier on in the pandemic the police started that new online reporting system for domestic violence. What's the response been like for that?

**COMMISSIONER CARROLL:**

Yes. Those numbers have increased. I don't have the exact numbers but certainly has been extraordinarily successful. We were the only state that did that in the country at the time and

we have certainly found that people are using the online reporting and still are. So I can get you those numbers.

**REPORTER:**

And are you still concerned about the levels of domestic violence in the community during the pandemic even though restrictions have started to ease? Are we still seeing an increase?

**COMMISSIONER CARROLL:**

I think we haven't seen the true numbers yet. So I think as we begin to open up a little bit more we may see an increase. There's some anecdotal evidence that that is the case. Certainly from our support agencies, they're seeing an increase and we've had some numbers on that online reporting. But what we have found, definitely, is the amount of breaches are up dramatically and we're just getting across now whether the applications are as well. So I think we have yet to see that evolve but certainly it is concerning for us as always.

**REPORTER:**

Commissioner, are you planning a big restructure of the police service? There was a suggestion I saw on TV over the weekend.

**COMMISSIONER CARROLL:**

Yeah, interestingly I did that review about a year ago. And all along the review showed us that because of demand in the community and our response obviously to demand, there needs to be a realignment of the organisation and we need to put our resources where they need to do. So simply, basically addressing the demand issue to make sure that our organisation is as effective and as efficient as we need to do. And it's best practice. We should be doing that constantly.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can we annoy you on some politics?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah sure. I wouldn't expect anything less Patrick.

**REPORTER:**

You sounded enthusiastic...

**PREMIER:**

Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

You sounded enthusiastic.

**PREMIER:**

Oh, Patrick's back.

**REPORTER:**

Your former colleague Christine Smith says she's disgusted about the whole Burleigh candidate process, your response?

**PREMIER:**

Oh look, Christine served the people of Burleigh for many years. I need a very strong candidate down there and Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew will do an excellent job and I hope that he'll be part of our team in the future.

**REPORTER:**

Isn't this the sort of thing you were throwing, you know, attacks at the LNP with the Currumbin sort of parachuting....

**PREMIER:**

I need the best people in these jobs to make sure that we are focused on health response and our economic response. And I believe that Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew is absolutely the person to be on my team.

**REPORTER:**

What about other seats? There's suggestions you're maybe going to be axing the Hervey Bay candidate? Can you guarantee his spot?

**PREMIER:**

Who's spot?

**REPORTER:**

Adrian Tantari, the Hervey Bay candidate

**PREMIER:**

Well he hasn't be selected.

**REPORTER:**

Hasn't he?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, this week and I know you've got other things [inaudible] but this week the AFL is going to make a decision on where to hold the Grand Final.

**PREMIER:**

So we'll be waiting to hear what they have to say. And I think that's really important because we know how much this means to Victorians and Victorian families are going through a lot at the moment so I am going to do the right thing here and wait to see what the AFL has to say.

**REPORTER:**

But surely you've been putting submissions to them or, you know we heard last week that Doc Young has signed off on capacity if we needed to hold it here?

**PREMIER:**

Yes and of course, other states will be putting their hands up and I would hope that if a decision is made then it would be nice to see if Victorians would also get behind Queensland.

**REPORTER:**

Could you give us a little bit of a flavour of your pitch that you'll be giving?

**PREMIER:**

When that happens I'll let you know Lydia. Thank you.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI-DPC

Engagement: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier  
Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer  
Steve Gollschewski, Deputy Commissioner  
Bob Gee, Director-General Dept of Youth Justice

Date: 25 August 2020

Duration: 30mins 50sec

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*E&OE*

**PREMIER:**

In some good news overnight for Queensland, I am very pleased to report that we have had zero new cases. That is tremendous news with over 8000 tests conducted in 24 hours, but of course, as Dr Young said, the next 10 days is very critical so we need to make sure that as many people as possible, if they are having any symptoms, to go and get tested. Can I thank everyone who has gone and been tested, we still need more people to go and get tested and I thank you also for your patience. There have been some queues, we know we have a number of clinics that have been set up across the south east, I thank you for your patience but it is very important in this time if you have any symptoms whatsoever to get tested. So we know that social distancing is the key to make sure that you continue your social distancing, that good hand hygiene and hopefully we will get through this as soon as possibly. Our testing turnaround is around 30 hours and that is because of the large volumes that we are seeing, but it is wonderful news that we've had zero overnight cases. Dr Young will give us an update, but I just wanted to also mention that because we've got the Jeff Horn fight happening up in Townsville, some extra measures have been put in place by Queensland Health, and that is that Queensland Health will be greeting people coming off the flights into Townsville just to check that they have no symptoms. This is because we have a large number of people from Indigenous communities that are coming to the fight, it is very important that no one goes to the Jeff Horn fight. If you have any symptoms, you must stay at home. So we are putting in the extra level of precaution just to make sure that everyone is safe at that event. And of course, I am going to wish Jeff Horn all the very best.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

We breathed another sigh of relief this morning to learn there were no further cases of COVID-19 here in Queensland, although there of course is still a long way to go before we know we have controlled this possible outbreak. That leaves our total number of cases at 1106, 18 of those are active. As the Premier said we did 8059 tests in the last 24 hour period. 6278 were in the HHSs where we are concerned about the youth detention centre cluster. I

want to apologise to those who saw delays in getting testing, particularly at Redlands. Today, we will open a further fever clinic at Gundapa in the bayside to hopefully to relieve some of the pressure on the Redlands. I just emphasise that in terms of redeploying health resources from across the south east, first and foremost we've had to relieve a number of staff from the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department who were potentially exposed there. We have also allocated significant resources to our hotel quarantine, which remain at near peak levels and that has impacted our ability to stand up many more fever clinics, but we have extended the hours of those that are operating. The Chief Health Officer will outline in more detail early preliminary results from that genomic testing she has been talking about. Those early results indicate that the first case of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster had the same strain of COVID-19 as one of the women who travelled to Melbourne, as well as the diners at the restaurant thought to have acquired it from that person. That doesn't disprove the theory they are related, it doesn't prove the theory either because that strain - the B1125 strain - is the most common strain most currently circulating in Victoria, therefore there could be other sources of that strain here. Further genomic testing will, though, be able to confirm if the two are, indeed, linked we hope.

**DR YOUNG:**

So no new cases overnight. So we still have those five original cases associated with the detention centre staff who work there. Five cases in their immediate household or immediate relatives and we have had no community cases. It is still a little bit early, though, to be seeing those community cases, so it is really important that everyone with any symptom at all come forward and gets tested. Thank you to all of those people who came forward yesterday and got tested. So we will get those results through today and that will reassure us, I hope, that we have not had community transmission. We will need to continue those testing levels for the next week to just make sure that there is not a case that we have missed. I am beginning to think that is what has happened with this detention cluster. So we now have that early genome sequencing information. It looks like this cluster has the same viral strain as one of the young women who went down to Melbourne. Now, as the Deputy Premier pointed out, that doesn't prove it. I need more information, which is being done over the next 24 to 48 hours to be able to prove it. But at this stage, it does look like they could be linked. But, we don't have the case between the two clusters. So, we've had the cluster related to that Melbourne-Logan group, those five people and the cluster related to the Brisbane youth detention centre, 10 people. There is a missing link between the two. That is why it is so important that we do our absolute best to find every single case, because the cases that we don't find are the ones that can lead to chains of transmission. If we don't find them and then can't get on top of them and manage them. Thank you again to all of those people who came forward yesterday and got tested. Then we are doing a little bit of extra work up in Townsville just because of the event that is happening there on Wednesday night. I have just asked the health staff up in Townsville could they please go to the airport and meet each flight that is coming in and just reaffirm with people that if they are unwell, that is not the time to be going to the event. So, we also will be making sure - and I know that those event organisers have an excellent COVID Safe Plan in place and we will work with them if there is anything else they need to do. Just in case there are people who were to travel up from Brisbane. I think the risk is very, very, very low. I really do. I think the numbers of cases here in Brisbane, you can imagine how many millions of people there are in Brisbane and for one

of them to have it and then to go up to Townsville, the risk is very low, but it is not going to hurt just to remind people of that who are travelling in to Townsville Airport.

**REPORTER:**

This missing link you speak of – could that person still be out in the community or, we just don't know [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

They could be which is why testing is just so critical. So, yes, there could have been a person there...well there has to of been someone there who's been the link between the two clusters if that's what's proven. Remember, I don't have that final information. But if that's what's proven there will have been a link, a person, between the two clusters.

**REPORTER:**

So you don't know what the link is obviously at this stage?

**DR YOUNG:**

We don't know who that person is, no, because we haven't tested anyone. So I have been doing serology on all of these people who've been in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre to see if any of them might have had it and recovered and they could be that missing person. So people might remember, I did exactly the same thing up in Cairns. So we had one case, then a month later we had a second case and they couldn't be related. But then I went and did serology testing and we found two people who'd had it and that was the missing link.

**REPORTER:**

Does that mean the 77 year old woman is not the zero case?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, she's not the zero case for the cluster. There will be someone else that had led to the outbreak. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, what's the latest on tracking down the people who left the detention centre in terms of finding them and testing them and...well have you got some latest [inaudible]?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, so police have tracked down 91 of the 94 which is excellent. So they know where they all are but they've physically laid eyes on 91 of them. We haven't got all the results on all of those yet so we're going through those today.

**REPORTER:**

Are some residents refusing to be tested at all?

**DR YOUNG:**



No, no, they've all been very good. A few of them have been a little bit reticent as you can imagine. Most people are. This is unexpected but all of them have been very helpful. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Are there any inside the centre who were due out about now who are being kept in?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, we're not keeping anyone in there who shouldn't be there. Of course not. This is a detention centre. Once people have finished their custodial sentence we're working with them.

**REPORTER:**

There were more than 500 staff affiliated with the youth justice centre. Have all of those workers been tested now as well as the detainees?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yesterday...last night when I went home and got the last information we were still waiting on 16 people to get tested, staff, because they've been on different shifts, they've been away so we're just tracking down those last few. But the vast majority have now been tested.

**REPORTER:**

And the detainees, sorry?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. We're waiting on one last test last night on the detainees.

**REPORTER:**

Will these [inaudible] who may have been exposed? What are the circumstances there?

**DR YOUNG:**

Right. One of the relatives who is a confirmed case was admitted to the Ipswich Hospital for another condition on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. So we've had to contact trace all of the staff because she was admitted during her infectious period. So not necessarily symptomatic but during the period she could transmit the virus. So we had to go and contact trace staff and quite a few staff had to go into quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

Did she turn out to be positive?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, she was positive.

**REPORTER:**

Are you concerned the long queues are deterring people from getting tested?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't think they are and I'm so grateful that people are prepared to manage those long queues. That is extremely good of them and we are standing up extra clinics today to try and help with that.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, your advice yesterday to wear a mask if you can't social distance – what would your advice be to school teachers and particularly young students who can't social distance?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, we have to remember that school children – and we're seeing it again in the youth detention centre – are not the people at risk, are not the people getting it, are not the people spreading it. So my advice in schools is be careful of the other adults. So in the tea room, in the playground, in the before and after school...it's the other adults that are the problem. Staff meetings. We've seen some outbreaks happen when staff have had meetings. That's the real risk. It's adults with adults. And we've seen it again in the youth detention centre. It's adults with adults that are the risk. This is not flu. With flu the major spreaders are children. We know that. With this, it's adults.

**REPORTER:**

And the 8000 tests overnight, where would you like to see that number? Is 8000 okay?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think that's good. Yes I think that's a significant testing proportion. But really, it's more than the number. It's about people who are sick. It's really, really important that if someone has any symptoms at all, they're the ones I want to test. They're the ones that we'll find the cases and they're the ones that are critical.

**REPORTER:**

Dr, more broadly on the masks directive that you issued yesterday. There's been discussion now of...from Transport Union for example encouraging communities to be wearing masks. What is your sort of, definitive advice if you like for wearing masks in a public space?

**DR YOUNG:**

If you're in a public space and you can't maintain social distancing then that's the time to consider wearing a mask. I'm not mandating it. I do not think it's reached that risk but I'm saying that you should make your own decisions. So people know whether they're more at risk. So people...I'm positive, we're seven months in...have a good understanding of what their personal risk is if they were to get the infection and then where they need to go about their normal business. So they should think it through and work out and always talk to their own doctor is always a good place to start if they're unsure.

**REPORTER:**

Would it be your preference for them to wear a mask?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. I think it's up to people to make their own decision at this stage. I think we've got really good COVID Safe plans. We've had months and months now to put them in place. We know them. They're in place. People have been activating them very well and I think that's the important thing we should focus on.

**REPORTER:**

Another family of wealthy Victorians have come into Queensland, have been given an exemption. This time on a super yacht. A Current Affair has vision of this crew and family getting off the boat in New South Wales on Friday. How have they been given this exemption?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know that specific one but we do give exemptions for anyone who's been on any sea vessel for 14 days and not been into an area of risk.

**REPORTER:**

But they've been into New South Wales which has been declared a hot spot and they were there on Friday?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well I'd have to see that because of course, if they've been in New South Wales they need to go into quarantine when they come into Sydney...into Brisbane. That's absolutely clear. But I'm not sure that I know about that one. I do know about a number of superyachts that have come into Queensland because we're quite an important place for repairs for a lot of those superyachts. We have significant industry in that and so the plan is always – if they've been out at sea for 14 days or longer and they have their logs. So we work closely with Maritime Safety Queensland who checks their logs to make sure that they've been out at sea and they haven't go into areas that might have COVID, they haven't had any new people coming on to that vessel. Then they get tested. So they still have to have a COVID negative test and then they can leave.

**REPORTER:**

They got off the boat in New South Wales and New South Wales is declared a hot spot, how are they coming into Queensland waters?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well, they're not. If they've been in an area within the 14 days they need to complete 14 days quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

But all that happened yesterday is they were given a COVID test and they're on the boat in Queensland.

**DR YOUNG:**

AS I said, they have to complete 14 days quarantine. So that happens no matter who you are. You need to complete quarantine for 14 days after leaving a hot spot. Whether that's overseas, Victoria, New South Wales or the ACT.

**REPORTER:**

So what is the next step for them? Will they be taken off this superyacht and taken into hotel quarantine for 14 days?

**DR YOUNG:**

I would need to know the specifics of that but that is the process.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, sorry, you've spoken a bit about the scientific linking of the two clusters. What have you done in terms of linking them, talking to the Logan women who went to Victoria and have you established any link such as relatives or friends of theirs that are in the detention centre or were in the detention centre?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. we haven't established any of that link through our contact tracing process.

**REPORTER:**

There are also hard luck stories. We've had a case of a Melbourne man who was told on Friday by somebody at Health that he could apply for his mother's funeral. If he went into quarantine that he would be able to go to the funeral then go back immediately into quarantine or go back to Victoria. He was told after flying up here, he was told on the Sunday, no he couldn't. Why has that sort of thing happened?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm not sure about the specifics but I've not allowed anyone right from the start of this pandemic to attend a funeral. Right before we brought in border restrictions for international visitors. I've never allowed it because we know from evidence around the world and it's been reaffirmed recently that several of their outbreaks in New South Wales have been as a result of attendance at funerals. Funerals are really, really high risk. Because you can't socially distance. I mean, to say to someone who's grieving that they can't hug someone. You can say it all you like and I know the funeral industry has very, very good solid COVID Safe plans in place but they're very hard to manage. And we're now allowing 100 people at a funeral. And that hasn't changed. So it's far too high risk. So I'm not sure what happened but I apologise – he should never, ever have been given any advice that it was okay to attend a funeral.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can I ask – Queensland's bidding or pitching for the AFL Grand Final. What can you tell us about the case that's being put in to the AFL?

**PREMIER:**

Look, what I can confirm is that the AFL are now speaking to states and I can confirm that myself, Minister Kate Jones, Tony from the Gold Coast Suns and Andrew from the Brisbane Lions will be speaking to the AFL about the potential that Queensland has and Brisbane in particular to host a grand final if and when the Victorian Government and the Victorian AFL makes a firm decision that it can not go ahead in Victoria.

**REPORTER:**

And what's the main selling point? Why should it come here?

**PREMIER:**

Well we've hosted over 50 games to date. By the end of the season it will be over 80. We can put on world class events. We have put on the Commonwealth Games that people from all around the Commonwealth got to see. And the sport is growing in Queensland. It's up 30 per cent so there's enormous potential here in Queensland. But like I said, these are very, very early days and I think I'll just leave it at that for now.

**REPORTER:**

Are there any incentives being offered to come here?

**PREMIER:**

Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

Are there any incentives?

**PREMIER:**

I'm not going into any of that detail. This is purely an opportunity for Queensland to talk to the AFL. Very, very preliminary discussions.

**REPORTER:**

Do you want the Brownlow as well?

**PREMIER:**

Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

Do you want the Brownlow?

**PREMIER:**

Absolutely Patrick. Of course we want the Brownlow and if that was to occur we see an enormous potential for the Gold Coast to host that. The Gold Coast has done a great job in the past of hosting the Logies and of course, the Commonwealth Games so we think there is enormous potential.

**REPORTER:**

There'd be no parade? You couldn't do a parade?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

In relation to this man that has come from Victoria via a superyacht, how have they been given an exemption considering they stopped in several locations in New South Wales?

**PREMIER:**

I don't have those details. There will be a thorough investigation. The Deputy Commissioner and Dr Young will look at the details of that. I don't have those details to hand. If you want to provide those details they will be immediately looked at. And as Dr Young said, if they've been to a hot spot they have to go into quarantine just like everyone else.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, you've asserted that there's more than enough PPE in Queensland and yet the AMAQ have put out a statement saying that GP clinics in particular are consistently unsure of how much and what's available. What's your response to that?

**PREMIER:**

Everyone's been out and seen our PPE stockpile. Of course, that's primarily for our hospitals but of course, there is a lot of masks and everything readily available on the open market but I'll ask Dr Young if she can address the AMA question. If there's any other questions for me first.

**REPORTER:**

Can I ask – why is Queensland's committed less to COVID stimulus than Victoria and New South Wales when our unemployment rates are higher?

**PREMIER:**

That's a very good question so let's address that. We have already put in place \$7 billion. We have already committed our \$50 billion capital program over the next four years. We have brought forward \$13.8 billion the next financial year for capital infrastructure. And we will have more to announce over the coming weeks and the coming months. Let me make it very clear to Queenslanders – our priority is to get people back in to work. We are very much focused on what are the skills and training that people need who have lost their jobs. And let's remember, a lot of people have lost their jobs. It's going to be very tough for these families. But we need to hear from the people who've lost their jobs what industries they would like to go into. We're also looking at the regions by regions as to what areas of skills we need, particularly to those areas. We've got a key focus on manufacturing as well. We want Queenslanders to back Queenslanders and buy more in Queensland. These are the key things that we're focused on, as well as small business. We know that the best way that we can help people get a job is to make sure that we have the right economic framework for that. That is exactly what the Treasurer and I are focused on.

**REPORTER**

But why have we spent less?

**PREMIER:**

Well we've spent more on our capital program?

**REPORTER**

Deb's releasing some engineering designs on her Bradfield Scheme today. When are we going to see yours? Are you going to reveal all before the election?

**PREMIER:**

Patrick, we have spent over \$1 billion dollars on water infrastructure. We are in the final stages of putting together our key group of people that will be working on our water infrastructure proposals as we look to the future and what Queenslanders need. And of course, you might want to ask the LNP how they're going to pay for their promises because if they've got all these billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure, there's only one way they can pay for that and that is to sell our power assets. And I'll tell you what, there's been reports about that in the paper today – Queenslanders do not want their power assets sold. We keep that in public hands. We've been able to give Queenslanders back a dividend. Plus we are giving Queenslanders, every household, \$200 dollars as part of our COVID response to ease the pressure for cost of living during this particular time.

**REPORTER**

You spoke about water infrastructure generally. Are you cooling off on the idea of the Bradfield Scheme?

**PREMIER:**

No, no. We've got a committee we're about to announce and that'll be looking at a version that is possible and one that is affordable.

**REPORTER**

How is it fair that these wealthy Victorians can come into Queensland and be given an exemption when families can't see their loved ones... can't get an exemption to see their loved ones and go to funerals?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah look, I've addressed that question. We are going to investigate it. If you want to hand over the details I'm more than happy to look at it. Alright, I'll hand over to Dr Young and then the Deputy Commissioner. And just before I hand over to Dr Young, too, can I also commend all of our agencies that have been working, especially around this youth detention cluster. What's going to happen over the next 24 to 48 hours, for the first time I think in Australian history we are going to transition in a whole new workforce. This is only possible because we have agencies across government that are able to work together. And they're able to work together because we have worked together to respond to cyclones and natural disasters and bushfires. People know one another, they know their strengths, they know their

expertise. But this is a huge job. It is absolutely the right call. We'll have a combination of youth justice workers, corrective service workers, operational controls going in there to manage that detention centre to make sure it continues to operate as well as wearing PPE. This is what happens when you respond quickly, and I want to pay tribute to the Youth Justice Department, but also Corrections, Police and Health that have worked around the clock to ensure that this happens. I've never seen this happen anywhere else in Australia or the world to date. Thank you. Dr Young?

**DR YOUNG:**

So Queensland is now manufacturing its own PPE, so there should be no problem with all of those primary healthcare practitioners, whether they be GPs or pharmacists, accessing PPE. If there is, the Commonwealth still has a stockpile and I've alerted them to this change of policy here in Queensland, and they've ensured that the primary healthcare networks who provided the PPE at the start of the pandemic for primary healthcare have got sufficient. So they will be able to access PPE, I'm not concerned about it at this stage. We could not have done what we're doing now at the start of the pandemic. We did not have enough PPE. We definitely do now.

**REPORTER:**

But there's clearly some kind of breakdown in communication if the AMAQ say that their consistent feedback from GP clinics is that they're running low on stock, they don't know what's coming, there's no transparency of the processes. So there's clearly some kind of problem there.

**DR YOUNG:**

But they're private businesses. If they need assistance, they can look on the website, they can look where you can purchase PPE. There is plenty of PPE out there. You and I can go to the local shopping centre and will be able to buy PPE. So seriously, there is plenty out there. If they really can't find it, they should call their local PHM that's been set up by the Commonwealth to provide that sort of advice to primary healthcare so that they can then be given assistance how to go about and buying PPE.

**PREMIER:**

Deputy Commissioner? Thank you, Dr Young.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning everyone. Just a quick summary of what's happened in the last 24 hours. We've seen 68 flights come into the state, 3199 passengers processed, 14 refused entry. At our road borders we've had 3109 vehicles intercepted. We have refused entry to 107 persons, and we've had a total of 554 go into quarantine in the last 24 hours which indicates how busy our borders are. In relation to breaches of the directions of the Chief Health Officer, we've seen two on the spot fines issued in the last 24 hours – one including for a false declaration at the border, which regrettably takes the number of people trying to breach our border through either deception or avoiding them reach 77, plus another 19 before the courts for serious offences relating to that. And of course, the matter that got some attention yesterday around



the kebab shop in Fortitude Valley, a corporate pin has been issued to the operator of that business for \$6772 dollars I think it is, and we are continue to look at the vision of that to make sure that there are other businesses that are not implicated. So the message around that of course is that whilst the vast majority of Queenslanders are doing the right thing, it's particularly disappointing that we see people trying to breach our borders and not doing their bit around social distancing. I've said it another of times that we will maintain the borders, they can't be 100 per cent effective, the rapid response you've seen is very effective what's happening around the cluster around the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, but the community's role is to practise social distancing and do that well. We've seen some instances lately where on some occasions people are just doing the wrong thing. So we'll continue to police that and continue to make that. And I might pre-emptively address the issue around exemptions. There is a very clear process for getting exemptions to come into this state. We apply that equally to whoever that person may be. There are exemptions for coming out of a hotspot, but nonetheless there are requirements for people to go into quarantine. And certainly, as the Premier has mentioned, I will look personally into that particular issue and ensure that everything has been done properly in that instance, and if it has not there'll be further investigations.

**REPORTER:**

A member of the public has suggested that some youth detainees left the Wacol facility and were subsequently picked up by police at Ferny Grove. Is there any truth to that?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Look I've got no specific information around that particular issue. I can tell you that there were 94 released, as Dr Young has indicated, and we found 91 of those children. So police have located 91 of those. The other three we're contact with the families and carers of them and we're confident we'll track them down soon. I'd leave it to the DG to talk about his centre. He's across far more detail about who may be released from his centre or not.

**REPORTER:**

But have police at Ferny Grove picked up, if you like, any youth detainees who escaped from...

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Not that I'm aware of. Thank you.

**BOB GEE:**

Thanks everyone. And can I acknowledge the Premier's comments about the huge task in terms of the workforce swap-over. And just another example of the great cooperation across government. Today we'll launch a legal profession hotline. It's specifically only for legal practitioners that can't get advice through their normal processes. So we'll provide that so there's great coordination between the legal profession, Youth Justice, courts and Health. And can I just say one thing while I'm here – we're thinking about our own staff and their families that have been affected. Thanks everyone.

[ENDS]

**Engagement:** Press Conference

**Speaker/s:** Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier  
Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer  
Steve Gollschewski, Deputy Commissioner

**Date:** 26 August 2020

**Duration:** 27mins 14sec

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

So in some good news overnight for Queensland, we can confirm that we only have one new case today, but that one new case is a close contact of another case. So we don't have any real concerns there. And that person resides in Forest Lake and we are going to continue to do the contact tracing there. But Dr Young will talk more about that. We have active cases of 16 in Queensland. The total number of confirmed cases is 1108 and that's because we've also added an historical case from March on to that number. So we're not concerned about that historical case. But in some really good news, I can report today that we've had the highest level of testing results - over 20,000 tests were conducted. I really want to give a shout out to all of those people who went and had tests taken, but also, too, we want to keep the testing rates up. Because we want to make sure that we don't have any undetected virus out there in the community. So can I thank every single person who has gone out and been tested, and that is, indeed, a record. So well done there. We're finalising the testing of all of the staff at the youth detention centre, and also all of the young people, and we hope to have final results on all of that by tomorrow. So we'll update you on that. Secondly, I just want to briefly mention the Federal Court decision that came down. I'm quite sure that the Western Australian Premier, Mark McGowan, will have more to say about that today. But Queensland also joined with Western Australia in that case. And what that means is that the border measures are there in place to keep the health of their residents safe. So that's what the Federal Court has found and I'm very pleased with that result because that is exactly what I have been saying. That is exactly what Queenslanders have been saying to me as well - that they want us to keep them safe. So what that means - if we can minimise the virus coming into Queensland, it means it's keeping the health of our families safe, but also too, it also means that we are actually allowing the economy to open up here. And that is good for businesses and that's good for people who are working right across Queensland. So look, I'll hand over to the Deputy Premier and then Dr Young and then we're happy to take some questions.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Thank you so much, Premier. Two pieces of really good news here. This 11<sup>th</sup> case related to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster is a known close contact and was already in quarantine and therefore not posing an ongoing infection risk to the community. I want to thank every single Queenslanders who heeded our call to go and get tested. 20,856 tests in the last reporting period - the highest number in a 24-hour period we have recorded throughout the pandemic. Of course, to have just one of those return positive is fantastic news. We need to keep it up. But for now, I want to thank everyone who waited. I want to particularly thank our scientists, our pathology services and those working in our fever clinics who have worked incredibly hard. I know the waits for tests were shorter yesterday thanks to the additional fever clinics and resources we were able to provide. But I also know that the time to validation and test results has grown slightly as well as our labs work to process all of those tests, and I thank everyone for their patience. A high testing rate is the only way we can assure ourselves that we are finding all of the positive cases of this virus. So I am very, very pleased that we have now reached that 20,000 tests mark. Yesterday, the federal case handed down a defeat for your knockers. The Federal Court found in favour of particularly WA and found that their border closure was the most effective tool to keep their citizens safe. That is precisely what we have been saying here in Queensland, too. This is a loss for Clive Palmer and Scott Morrison in their attempts to criticise states for keeping their borders closed. This has confirmed that keeping borders closed is an effective and legal health measure. I finally want to say that I think we also demonstrated yesterday that where we are provided with intelligence, where we are provided with information about people trying to breach our borders, people being creative in trying to breach our borders, we will take very strong action. Health took very strong action in putting those people into quarantine and cancelling their exemptions and of course, police will continue to investigate where there is appropriate action for them to take also.

**DR YOUNG:**

So one new case overnight. It's our 11<sup>th</sup> case in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster. This case was a known contact of one of those other cases, so we will now work through to see whether there's any additional work we need to do related to this new case. We have not seen any community transmission due to any of the original five cases of those youth workers at the centre. We need to keep alert for that. There is still a risk over the next week that we will see that because those people were out and about in the community. So it is fantastic news the amount of testing that was done yesterday. Well over 15,000 people came forward to be tested which is really, really good. We need to keep those numbers going, though, because as I said yesterday, we with actually don't know what the link is for this cluster. Where did they actually originally get it from? Which means we could have more cases out there in the community that have resulted in this cluster. Clearly not a lot because we're doing so much testing, but it means we've got to keep those very high rates of testing in place. Anyone with any symptoms at all - if you live anywhere in that Brisbane, Logan or West Moreton, Ipswich area, it is particularly important that you come forward and get tested. It is important across the state, but at this point in time, anyone with any symptoms in that area it is exceptionally important that you come forward and get tested, and thank you to those people who have already come forward to be tested. We need to continue this as we go forward. The other issue is it is really good to see the amount of social distancing that is happening out there in our community. That's very, very important. Because if we do have

any more cases, we don't want them to spread and lead to other clusters. So those COVID-safe plans are critical. We've got really good plans here. We need to make sure that they're implemented everywhere, and that we get everyone's contact details in case we need them. We've needed them a lot in the last week. We need to make sure that we have them going forward. Thank you.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOLLSCHESKI:**

Good morning. In the last 24 hours, we've seen 64 flights come into Queensland. 2904 passengers have been processed. We refused entry to two at our roads. We processed or intercepted 3412 vehicles. We turned around 107 persons, and a total of 455 have been placed into quarantine. With respect to the 94 children that we were working with Health and Youth Justice to locate there are only two outstanding. We don't have particular concerns about those. They are within the greater Brisbane area and we anticipate fining them in the next day or so. So we continue to do that work. And all that have been located have been cooperative with us. With respect to our enforcement, I can tell you that we have now issued 22 notices to appear for breaches of both criminal offences and the CHO's directions in relation to primarily people coming across our borders inappropriately. We've now issued 78 border related on-the-spot fines. And 2254 offences overall from the spot fines. Just top highlight a couple of those that have happened in the last 24 hours. We saw the Portuguese Club at Pinkemba that the fines were issued to for that event, both liquor offence fines and breaches of the CHO's directions which amounted to \$9441 worth of fines for those persons that were involved. We've also seen some disappointing behaviour of people. There was an intercept at a random breath test in Mackay in the last 24 hours where a person with an X-pass that only allows them in the border bubble was found in Mackay. So that person for their trouble has been issued with an on-the-spot fine and also placed into quarantine. We've had a number of historical matters as well, investigations that are ongoing. A karaoke club at Upper Mount Gravatt has been issued with a fine... a corporate fine for breaching the Chief Health Officer's directions earlier this month. The message there is that people should realise that we're going to be relentless in pursuing investigations to anyone who does not comply with the Chief Health Officer's directions, particularly those that do it in a manner that will put our community at risk. And I should just mention the investigation into the Lady Pamela. We are now conducting a criminal investigation into the actions of the persons on that vessel. And we are doing that in collaboration with the NSW Police. That investigation will be ongoing and we will make a comment about that at the appropriate time.

**PREMIER:**

Happy to take some questions.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, South Australia say they're looking at removing border restrictions on New South Wales in the next fortnight. Are you going to do the same?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

Why?

**PREMIER:**

Because that's not our health advice.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, [inaudible] two workes used in Townsville to erect the boxing ring?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, I'll get Dr Young to address that when she comes back in relation to the exemptions that were provided. My understanding, and I've had this confirmed as well by Dean Lonagan this morning, that they were the only experts that can actually do that. And they were given an exemption. And they did want to watch the match and Dr Young has refused that. So she can talk in more detail about the exemption that was provided. But whilst I'm here can I also wish Jeff all the very best tonight. Unfortunately, I won't be able to get there because I'm dealing with matters here but of course, the Government will be represented at that and we wish him all the best. And it's a great event for Townsville. And I think it shows that Queensland can put on world class events. And it's probably one of the largest boxing events that happening in the world at the moment due to COVID so we wish him all the best and great for the Townsville economy.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can we ask you about the Lady Pamela? What happened in that situation? Was there an exemption given? Who was is given by? Was it yourself or was it Maritime Safety? And, why was there an exemption given if they didn't fit into a previous category?

**DR YOUNG:**

So we have a very important industry here in Queensland. I'm told that we're one of the best in the world at repairing and maintaining yachts. And at the time of year, every year, there are a large number of yachts who come to us to have their return repair and maintenance work done. So far I've given 10 exemptions similar to this one. So this exemption was given so that they could come up directly from Victoria to Queensland without stopping along the way to have the repairs done. Now, they were only meant to have the people necessary to bring the yacht safely up to Queensland. Then, the plan was – which is why I've withdrawn the exemption – the plan was that they have to be on that yacht for 14 days, out at sea, with no contact with anyone. With no one going on or off the yacht. If they haven't reached that 14 day limit then the rest of the time is spent in hotel quarantine. And before they can leave the yacht they all have to have negative COVID tests. So that's a standard process that's already worked for 10 yachts. Now, these people arrived. When they arrived Maritime Services is involved because they check the log to make sure where that particular yacht has been. And as I say, this has happened now 10 times so we've got a good system going there. They checked and these people hadn't come directly. Then public health staff went on board and took specimens from all of them for COVID testing. Now, also Maritime Services notified me that they didn't believe that all of the people on the yacht were crew. So that's the issue that's being further investigated. So yesterday, given the conflicting information about

whether they were crew or not crew, where they'd been, I just removed the exemptions and asked...or required, all of them to go into hotel quarantine til it can all be worked through. And as you heard, police are doing an investigation and they'll work that through. But I can assure people that everyone's perfectly safe. These people never got off that yacht in Queensland. They were tested on the yacht and now they're all in hotel quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

Where was the breakdown in the monitoring of that vessels journey? I mean, you could follow it on freely available ship tracking websites on the internet. I can see that it had stopped at six ports in New South Wales. Had no one from Maritime Safety checked that?

**DR YOUNG:**

There was no breakdown. Maritime Safety went and investigated as they do for every one of these yachts when they arrive. What they've done prior to arriving is not a problem until they've arrived. And then the decision needs to be made. When they've arrived, where have they been. That's the point of the decision making that needs to occur to keep Queenslanders safe.

**REPORTER:**

They were granted an exemption late on Sunday night, wouldn't the point that they were granted the exemption by Queensland Health that there had been some checks done on where they'd stopped?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. Because the exemption has a whole list of conditions that need to be met. And those conditions weren't met so they weren't allowed off the yacht.

**REPORTER:**

And what will happen to them now? I understand they don't...what will happen to them after 14 days hotel quarantine? I understand they're not Queensland residents. Would they have any legal right to be able to remain in Queensland at this time?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well, as you heard, a criminal investigation is occurring. So that's a very serious investigation. That's beyond a health investigation. And that criminal investigation will sort out what happens going forward.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can you just expand on why those two workers were allowed to go to Townsville? Wouldn't locals have done....

**PREMIER:**

No.

**DR YOUNG:**

No, I was told that locals could not. This is highly specialised work. The event could not have gone ahead if this work had not happened. This event is very important for many reasons. And two workers going into a vacant area is not a risk. So these two workers were in hotel quarantine and were able to leave that to go and do their work and then go back to hotel quarantine. And we don't only do it in this sort of situation, but we do it for a whole range of essential issues that have to be sorted by someone that Queensland can't do that work.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, can you just clarify this again – we're told that one of the Logan women who tested positive after returning from Melbourne has a relative who's been a resident in the detention centre. Do either of the women have any relatives who've been inside the centre?

**DR YOUNG:**

Not that we've received that information. No, we're not aware of that.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**DR YOUNG:**

We're not aware of that. If people have different surnames and don't give us information, of course we can't work that through but no, I'm not aware of that information.

**REPORTER:**

And are you still waiting on the results of that genome testing?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. I am.

**REPORTER:**

And the [inaudible]...after your advice on Monday about masks there's been a massive take up of people wearing masks and more stores across Brisbane now are recommending that staff and people who visit there wear masks. At what point would you mandate masks being worn and what's your advice to people looking towards the weekend going out? Should they just have a mask on them?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's only if you can't socially distance. Masks are good but they're not totally protective. It's far more important that if you're sick stay home so we don't have the virus out there. Then, if you're well, to go about your normal business. But if you must do something and you can't socially distance while doing that, that's the time to think about wearing a mask. But essentially, people have got to risk assess themselves. So, if you're in one of those vulnerable categories and now there's more and more evidence that 80 is a significant age difference where you see a very big increase in adverse outcomes, indeed death...so if you're over 80 then you should think where you're going out and about and you should make sure you socially distance. That's really important. If you're younger than that and you've got...you

know, you're severely immune-compromised, you've had a transplant in the last year, you've had a significant health issue you should talk to your own treating doctor about it and decide what you should do. But at this stage we have 11 cases related to this cluster – five that initially happened and six subsequent. So it is a small cluster but it's a risk because we've had people out and about from those initial five in the community. So I will not be surprised, and I am actually expecting that we will get more cases out there. But they're small numbers. So it's really about people assessing their own individual risk – and they should talk to their GP if they think they have a risk that they should be concerned about – assessing their own individual risk and just going about and going to businesses that have COVID Safe Plans and managing, if they're in an area with a lot of people, social distancing.

**REPORTER**

You mentioned the other day you wouldn't mandate the use of masks. What about the people in beauty industries, eyebrow waxes and stuff, where they can't social distance, should they be wearing a mask?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, they need to work through their COVID Safe Plans. We've got to remember this has been going on in our community for seven months now, and people have done an absolutely amazing job. We have not seen widespread transmission, and that's because of what everyone has done. So they need to sort out their risk under their COVID Safe Plan. They've been given that information. They've worked it through with their industry. If they've got any concerns, they should speak to their industry group.

**REPORTER**

Just on this yacht. The criminal investigation, what are you looking at specifically? Is that looking at [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

So we will be looking at everyone that's on the boat, obviously. An investigation will consider all aspects of what's occurred, look at the mechanisms that were used to get through into our state, and I'm really not going to go into that further. As you would appreciate, we would rather put the allegations to people that we're investigating rather than through the media. So at the appropriate time, we'll comment on the investigation. But we are doing it in collaboration with Queensland Health, Maritime Safety Queensland and the New South Wales Police Force.

**REPORTER**

I have a question for the Premier. Michael Ravbar from the CFMEU says the party is courting Greens votes and is more about inner city elites than working class. Has Labor walked away from its working class roots?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER**



Can you comment on that?

**PREMIER:**

I haven't seen the press release.

**REPORTER**

He was on the radio this morning.

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, I've been dealing with these matters. Sorry.

**REPORTER**

[inaudible] CFMEU campaign with Labor at the election?

**PREMIER:**

The CFMEU stands up for workers in this state, just as the other unions do. So all the unions play a vital role. There's one party that supports workers and there's one that doesn't. We want to grow jobs. The LNP cut 14,000 – that's their record.

**REPORTER**

[inaudible] says the left faction is basically an echo chamber, and these are his words "they're dud politicians".

**PREMIER:**

Well that's a matter for him. I'm not going to...

**REPORTER**

You don't believe there's dud politicians in your...?

**PREMIER:**

No, I don't. Anything else for me?

**REPORTER**

There seems to be growing anger in the community about the fairness of the exemption system. The Deputy Premier described before as creative ways to try and get around it. That has been successful with Peter Fox, the Linfox chairman, being able to come up here on a truck. We've now had this attempt in another creative fashion. What would you say to people who are feeling like there's not real consequences?

**PREMIER:**

Well I think people need to do the right thing. And what we're seeing is some people are misrepresenting what they are planning to do. So that's wrong, and that's putting everyone at risk. So, you know, the exemptions are there for a purpose and the exemptions are not just in Queensland, there are exemptions that happen all around Australia because we need to have vital industries that continue. So some of the strengths of the Queensland economy, for

example the agricultural industry and the resources industry being able to continue. So yes, there will be COVID Safe Plans and there will be some exemptions. And as you know, Dr Young goes through meticulously those health exemptions as well. But this is not just happening in Queensland, it's happening right around, and if they're breaching these exemptions they will face the full force of the law. And you've just heard there is now a criminal investigation about those people who came up here and misrepresented what they were doing.

**REPORTER:**

And what was your feeling seeing what that [inaudible] yacht has tried to do? What was your feeling when you've seen the details?

**PREMIER:**

Well I'm disgusted about it, and now there is a criminal investigation because it puts the community at risk.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can we just ask you – have you got any clarity about whether Coralee O'Rourke will recontest Mundingburra?

**PREMIER:**

No.

**REPORTER:**

There were reports that she may...

**PREMIER:**

I think that that's just speculation. I haven't heard anything.

**REPORTER:**

She's not saying she's running but she's put a statement out saying whether she's running or not.

**PREMIER:**

I haven't seen that statement. But look I think I'd be the first person that she'd tell, okay. So this is merely speculation and as far as I'm concerned she is the endorsed candidate and endorsed Member.

**REPORTER:**

Are you disappointed the CFMEU has put [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Look I don't agree with the comments that have been made but I think you'd understand that my focus has been on the response to the health crisis, and of course ensuring businesses in

Queensland can stay open and keep employing people, so I haven't had much time for internal ALP politics.

**REPORTER:**

You don't have any duds in your faction?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

No, Patrick. I think our entire team has proven this year how hard it will work together to protect the jobs and health of Queenslanders.

**REPORTER:**

Is it a political play by the CFMEU, exerting some muscle, some pressure?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Oh look, the motives you'd have to put to them and ask them. What I can tell you is that we have worked very closely with all the unions, but particularly the CFMMEU throughout this pandemic to keep their workers, their members, in work. We've worked very closely to keep the construction, the mining industry, the maritime industry all up and running, keeping people in work, and they have been bedrocks of our economy. They have ensured that we've been able to continue to see people work throughout this pandemic and regardless of whatever Mr Ravbar has said today we'd look forward to continuing to work with them throughout this pandemic because we know how important those industries are.

**REPORTER:**

Would you like to see them rejoin?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

That's a matter for them. I understand they're staying affiliated to the Labor Party which we would of course welcome and we'll continue to work with them to keep those industries strong. They're incredibly important to Queensland – construction, mining, forestry, maritime. We are an exporting country and our maritime industry is very important too.

**REPORTER:**

Does it mean that any CFMEU aligned MPs in caucus can't come to your meetings and that sort of thing?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

That would be matter you'd have to put to them, Patrick.

**REPORTER:**

Would you like to see them campaigning with you at the election?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

Well I understand they're staying affiliated with the Labor Party. I expect they would continue to campaign with us at the election because they know that it's the Labor Party that works with them to support jobs in their industries just as we've demonstrated.

**REPORTER:**

And quickly can I just ask you about the [inaudible] investigation into the [inaudible], are you across this?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I'm not in detail, sorry Allison.

**PREMIER:**

Last question.

**REPORTER:**

Just one on boarding schools. There's a group of about eight boarding school principals that are meeting today. They're concerned about students stuck over the border in New South Wales. You've given exemptions for agriculture workers, what about students?

**DR YOUNG:**

I've given a standard exemption for any boarding school student to come into Brisbane or Queensland. It's really important that kids get their education. The question I then have is where they have come from because I know the boarding schools, and they've all been very good, are concerned about the risks to other students because they don't want an outbreak in a boarding house. So the work that I then do, and I'm meeting with the group later this week, is about which children need to actually quarantine when they arrive and how that's going to happen. So in some cases, some of the boarding schools have really good arrangements so that the children can have their own bedroom and their own bathroom and they can be given their meals, so that's fine. Others don't have those arrangements, so then we've got to look at whether the parent comes up and quarantines with the child somewhere else. So all that happens. In the end it's down to each individual child, what is best for that individual child, and what's best for their school community. But the boarding schools have done a really, really good job. They've done it before. You've got to remember this is not the first time they've had to manage children coming back from areas of the country that have had cases and need to go into quarantine. So they've got their systems well sorted.

[ENDS]

**Engagement:** Press Conference

**Speaker/s:** Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier  
Steven Miles, Deputy Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer  
Peter Martin, Commissioner QCS  
Steve Gollschewski, Deputy Commissioner QPS  
Mark Ryan, Minister for Police

**Date:** 27 August 2020

**Duration:** 25mins 10sec

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*E&OE*

**PREMIER:**

Good morning. Well today I can report we have had only two new cases overnight. One was in hotel quarantine, we have no concerns, and the other person is a trainer from Queensland Corrective Services. So I know there have been some reports out there that he was working in the prisons. That is not correct. Commissioner Martin will talk to you further about that. He is a trainer and we've put in some precautions because he trained some recruits. So we have 17 active cases so our total confirmed cases are 1110 and over the last 24 hours we've had 19,780 tests. That is great news. Thank you very much for everyone who's gone been tested. But it is now still really important if you have any symptoms to please go and get tested. Any symptoms - stay at home, go and get tested. Do not go to work if you are sick. It's really, really important that all Queenslanders follow that advice. So I just want to update everyone too that in relation to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, all the young people in that centre have been tested and all are negative. In relation to the staff at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, we are still awaiting just a few results. We hope to have those finalised by tomorrow. In relation to the trainer, and I can confirm the trainer is from Forest Lake, that he actually trained 14 recruits and there are also 11 colleagues. Now, all those people have been tested. They are in quarantine self-isolation and we are hoping to prioritise those tests as well. So as a precaution, some of our corrective services facilities have gone into lockdown and Commissioner Martin will update you about these precautionary actions that we have taken because we want to keep everyone safe. So now I will hand over to the Deputy Premier and then we'll go to Dr Young and then Commissioner Martin.

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

So those two cases we are reporting today, one was a Cairns resident who had returned from Papua New Guinea. They were in quarantine and are not of a concern in terms of local infection. The new case, a trainer at the Corrections Academy at Wacol, as the Premier said,

they have not been in prisons, they were training correctional officers. 25 close contacts have been identified. They are being tested and are now in quarantine. QCS have taken a range of very appropriate steps to keep our prisons, our prisoners and prison officers safe. While we can't yet identify a clear link with the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, this individual lives in Forest Lake, works in Wacol, are both locations where other cases from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster are known to live and or work. We completed 19,780 tests in the last testing period which is a fantastic result. It means over two days we tested more than 40,000 people and that is exactly what we wanted to see. The Chief Health Officer in a moment will also provide further details, final details about that genome sequencing work that has been underway. Unfortunately, it's been not definitive in that the strain identified with one of the women who returned from Melbourne as well as one of the first identified case at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. While they are the same strain that is the strain that has been circulating widely in Victoria and New South Wales and so, unfortunately that doesn't provide evidence of a link. We'll have to continue searching.

**DR YOUNG:**

So two new cases overnight, one was in quarantine and the other is a new case that we are investigating today but already the close contacts of that new case are in quarantine. That is all under way and happening. As the Deputy Premier just said, I received the final report about that genome sequencing, looking at one of those individuals who went down to Melbourne and comparing the virus strain they have with one of the first cases in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster. And although they match almost perfectly, there is only one very small change, one nucleotide change between the two, which suggests they are linked. The only problem is that the particular virus...that particular strain has shown very little mutation so although that is almost an exact match, we have also found other cases elsewhere that had that exact same match. There just hasn't been any change in the virus so we can't say definitively that those two cases are linked but we can't say they're not. So that's where we will have to leave that one. We're still looking to see whether through contact tracing work we can find any link between the two clusters. But either way we now have 11 cases linked to the Brisbane Youth Detention cluster. We have this 12<sup>th</sup> case that we'll now have to work through and see what linkage there is there. But remember, this person, the 12<sup>th</sup> case lives in Forest Lake and works in Wacol and we know we've had virus in both those locations.

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

Premier, thank you and good morning everyone. Peter Martin is my name, I'm the Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services. I can report that we received advice late yesterday afternoon that a senior and experienced trainer at the QCS Academy at Wacol tested positive for COVID-19. This particular trainer has not been working at a prison. This trainer, because of the protocols we have in place at the Wacol QCS Academy, was tested on Friday last week, Friday the 21 August. As part of our normal protocols, with respect to temperature and health screening. The temperature checking was normal at that particular juncture. Later that afternoon, on Friday, that officer had a sore throat. He did the right thing, he absented himself from the workplace. Over the course of the later part of the weekend further developed symptoms and he took himself off at testing as you would expect. The

results that we received back indicated that he was positive late yesterday. That officer I can confirm has been in contact with 14 recruits at the academy and was also in the company of 11 of his colleagues. All of those people have been sent for testing. This has been accelerated by colleagues at Queensland Health and are all subject to isolation at the present time. Because of this, and having regard for the location of the QCS Academy to the Wacol site and other Corrective Services facilities and the potentiality of the recruits to work in the centres early this week, what we've done is we've taken the very cautious step in consult with the advice from Queensland Health to move to stage four which is extreme isolation for the prisoners at Capricornia South. So from Capricornia to the correctional centres to all of the south east Queensland corner. We've moved to stage four which is significantly limiting any unnecessary movement into the prisons, or out of the prisons. And we're locking the prisoners down, including all of the staff using PPE when engaging with the prison population. This is an extreme step but an overly cautious step and it's one absolutely consistent with the best advice from Queensland Health. We are doing everything that we can. Our protocols and our processes are really well developed. They're well practiced and they've stood us incredibly well in this regard. And I'm optimistic and confident that we're doing everything we can at the present time to appropriately isolate and test all of those people. Both recruits and also colleague trainers at the Academy and also supporting the officer, as I said that is doing the right thing. But any reports that this officer had previously worked at a correctional centre over the time of his infection is clearly not true. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

How long might the prisoners be locked in their cells for? It can't go on for too long surely?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

That's difficult to say at this juncture. So stage four restrictions will be in place until the Chief Health Officer advises us that it's not required. Everything that we're doing in terms of acting in accordance with our planning is guided by the best scientific advice provided by Queensland Health.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible]

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

I'm sorry, say that again.

**REPORTER:**

Are all prisoners and officers being tested? Staff and [inaudible]?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

No. No they're not. What is happening currently is only those officers and only the prisoners that present as being symptomatic for COVID-19, flu or flu-like symptoms or those that have come into contact with any officers that are suspect. But always with the best advice from Queensland Health.

**REPORTER:**

What does that...what does lockdown actually mean? Does it mean that the inmates there are not able to leave their rooms? Does it mean that staff are not able to work across multiple facilities? What does it actually mean?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

It actually means all of those things. So in short, what that means is, that the prison will be locked down in terms of all but essential staff. That is Queensland Health and QCS staff, accessing the prison to do their important work. Clearly that will be allowed. Temperature checking and health screening will always be applied under those circumstances. And staff, in stage four, have to wear PPE – that is masks and what have you – when they access the prison population. It also means that there'll be no social and personal visits and also professional visits that normally occur will not be allowed. And it also means that the prison population, the prisoners in those facilities, will be locked in their cells for a period of time to enable us to ensure that there isn't prisoner to prisoner transmission or prisoner to staff or staff to prisoner transmission.

**REPORTER:**

So when you say professional visits, do you mean lawyers can't go in and see their clients?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

That's right. But what I can tell you is that any critical visits, particularly the important work of the Courts, we're liaising at the present time with the judiciary. The judiciary have been incredibly helpful and wonderfully accommodating to us over this very, very difficult time. And wherever possible we're helping the work of the court through virtual visits into the court process.

**REPORTER:**

And how many prisoners does that include?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

That will include a number of prisoners. So that will include all the prisoners in the greater south east corner, including prisoners at Woodford, north to Maryborough and also Capricornia at the present time.

**REPORTER:**

Having prisoners locked in cells always creates tension. Are you prepared for any sort of reaction to that?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

Yes we are. It is the least preferable way that we would do our business but we're incredibly alert to the fact that we are dealing with very, very difficult issues here. It's been reported – a one in a one hundred year pandemic – the reality is that this is unprecedented. These are very, very difficult and troubling times and our first priority is to the safety and security, but the safety of all of those people in our custody and our care. Including our staffing group and



including the prisoners and including those who might choose to access the prisoners, including their family and friends.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, what was the age and the sex of the officer who tested positive?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

The officer is a male officer approximately 60 years of age.

**REPORTER:**

And how many prisoners are involved all together, being locked away?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

So, there would be 9000 prisoners currently in Queensland today. And notwithstanding that there are prisoners that are out of scope currently including Townsville and Lotus Glen. There would probably be, and I haven't tallied it up specifically, but somewhere in the order of about 7000 or so prisoners.

**REPORTER:**

Does that mean that you'll stop taking prisoners or inmates for the time being at the moment?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

That's our preferred...

**REPORTER:**

They could be held in the watch house for example...

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

I'm sorry to interrupt you.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, but they might have to go into the watch house instead of going into a prison facility?

**COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

That would be our preferred course and of course, we're working very, very effectively with our colleagues in QPS. But the reality is that what would happen is that if we have a new entrant, a new prisoner that comes into a system, a system that is at stage four then what we would do is isolate them from the general prison population for the 14 days period. But of course, under stage four restrictions that wouldn't be applicable because everybody would be isolated from each other.

**REPORTER:**

Can I ask the Premier a question?

**PREMIER:**

We'll go to the State Disaster Coordinator first. Is that alright?

**REPORTER:**

Okay, sorry Steve.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Thank you. Good morning. In the last 24 hours we had 73 flights, domestic flights come into Queensland. 3170 passengers were processed. We refused 8 persons entry into the state. At our roads we intercepted 3740 vehicles and refused entry to 188 persons and a total of 269 persons were placed into quarantine. With respect to the young people released from Brisbane Youth Detention Centre there remains only one to be located and that person is within the greater Brisbane area and we will locate them shortly. So we're very confident of that. I'm pleased to say all have been cooperative and the testing that needs to be done on them is progressing without any issues. With respect to our enforcement in the last day we have issued two Notices to Appear for COVID related issues. One related to a young person who decamped from a hospital when they were supposed to be in hotel quarantine. That happened or occurred last week. They were quickly located, have been returned and that will be dealt with through the Brisbane Children's Court in September...that particular issue for a breach of the quarantine notice. Also yesterday regrettably we had to issue a 51 year old male with a Notice to Appear because this person had travelled into Queensland from New South Wales, a hot spot, been refused entry on three times but still snuck through the border and we were able to locate them. And as I continually say to people, do not do this please. Do not do this. We will track you down and we will take action against you. And if it's a serious breach such as that, you're not getting an on the spot fine, you're going before a magistrate in a court of law which can have serious consequences. And I'll just finish off with saying with respect to the investigation for Lady Pamela, we have issued one on the spot fine at the moment, however that investigation is ongoing and is not yet completed. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

And how did this person from New South Wales sneak across the border?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

That will be something we'll alleged before the courts. I don't have exact details of that. What was clear is that they were particularly persistent, did not take the appropriate advice, did not want to follow the rules. It's caused us significant resource usage to try and track them down, so that person now, because of the nature of that breach, has been put before the court.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, with this new case – so you said that he lives in the Forest Lake area and that he works at Wacol. At the moment though, is there any direct link? Like, for example, has he been in the youth detention facility with the known cases so far, or?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, he hasn't been in the youth detention centre, but I don't know about those other links. We found this out late yesterday. It was just a positive that came through. So all that contact tracing work has started. We've immediately put all of his colleagues that he's worked with and those trainees that he's been involved with into quarantine. So that's already happened. And of course anyone who lives in the same household as him. So that work has been done, now we need to go backwards and try and work out where he might have contracted it.

**REPORTER:**

Was yesterday's case also from the Forest Lake region?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, we have had some other cases who live in Forest Lake. That's why I suspect, but I don't know at this stage, I suspect it'll be linked in some way to one of the other 11 cases that we've already got.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, this man was tested on Friday, is that right?

**DR YOUNG:**

I don't know exactly when he was tested.

**REPORTER:**

And so obviously he had the weekend out and about. We'll be getting a list today or at some point of the...

**DR YOUNG:**

Yeah, that's all the contact tracing, of course, that's happening now. But the most significant contacts, as we all know now, are before someone has symptoms. So remember that you're most infectious in the 24 hours before your first symptom, and going back three days. So you've got more virus, the virus rapidly goes up, it peaks around half a day or so before the symptom, 0.7 of a day to be exact, and then it steadily comes down. So the concern... this is why quarantine is absolutely rigid and essential because if you don't quarantine people then you're always going to have people out in the community for those three days before they have their first symptom and have no idea that they've got anything.

**REPORTER:**

With that genome testing. Is it possible that the woman that you tested wasn't the first case, like the most immediate link? For example, one of the other workers could have been the more immediate link. Are you going to test them?

**DR YOUNG:**

Oh, yes. We're doing genome sequencing on all of them. As long as we got enough virus. You can't genome sequence if you don't have enough virus. So as long as there's enough virus, and I've been told for most of them there is, we will genome sequence all of them. But we won't get a different answer because there's one nucleotide difference which is nothing.

It's almost exactly the same. It's just, the problem is, there's lots of other samples out there that are exactly the same, and we know it's the most frequent lineage that's circulating in New South Wales and Victoria. So it won't give us any more information than we already have.

**REPORTER:**

So highly likely we may not find out where this has come from?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's true. Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, Gold Coast apartment owners and booking agencies are getting a little bit concerned about Schoolies given that [inaudible], where are we at?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah, so we've been having some regular meeting about that and I hope to give you a definitive response tomorrow. So I want to talk to Tom Tate one more time, but also too we're just working through some health advice tomorrow and police, so tomorrow I'll give you a definitive update.

**REPORTER:**

Just on the Lady Pamela. The crew... all the people that were onboard are in hotel quarantine. Once that comes to an end, does Queensland have the power to kick them out of the state because they're not residents?

**PREMIER:**

I will leave that for... there's a police investigation at the moment, so we'll have to just await the outcome on that. I don't want to jump on that.

**REPORTER:**

Sorry, but is it in the power of the state to be able to do that?

**PREMIER:**

I'd have to find that out for you Lydia.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, what has been your reaction to thousand people caught in the first two weeks of the mobile detection cameras including one person driving with their knees?

**PREMIER:**

Driving with their knees?

**REPORTER:**

Yeah.

**PREMIER:**

Well, they shouldn't be doing that, should they? That's pretty clear. I mean, that's ridiculous. That's ridiculous. Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

A thousand in a fortnight? That's a lot.

**PREMIER:**

It's a lot so everyone just needs to be doing the right thing and please don't be stupid on the roads.

**REPORTER:**

How big a loss to the Labor campaign that the CFMEU won't be campaigning?

**PREMIER:**

That's a matter for them.

**REPORTER:**

But it's going to be a big loss?

**PREMIER:**

That's a matter for them.

**REPORTER:**

But it is a matter for you?

**PREMIER:**

No, I'm not concerned.

**REPORTER:**

You're not concerned?

**PREMIER:**

No. I've got other things to deal with frankly.

**REPORTER:**

And what's your response to, I guess, the union's concerns that the Government lacks an economic plan?

**PREMIER:**

We've got a clear economic plan. I've been speaking about that at length. And as I said, you can't have an economy unless you've got a strong health response. That's why we are moving on the health response. We've got, as you can see, our rapid response is in full gear. These are the types of scenarios that we have planned and practiced for and I do want to

commend all of the work of police, Youth Justice, Corrective Services that have put in place these strong COVID safe plans. And in terms of the economy, we are absolutely focused on getting people jobs and getting them into work. And don't think for one moment that I don't know that people out there are hurting when they've lost their jobs, we're in the midst of a world pandemic and we have to make sure that we find them secure work into the future. So jobs is absolutely central to everything my government works on. And don't think for a moment that I don't understand the dignity of work. I know that there are tough jobs out there that people go to each and every day and they are absolutely vital. Every single job is vital to our economy.

**REPORTER:**

And Premier, when will the government be handing down its coronavirus fiscal review?

**PREMIER:**

That's in September.

**REPORTER:**

Do we know what date?

**PREMIER:**

You'd have to ask the Treasurer. I'll talk to him about it.

**REPORTER:**

AFL making a decision this week.

**PREMIER:**

Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Could be as early as today.

**PREMIER:**

Sorry?

**REPORTER:**

We're hearing it could be as early as today.

**PREMIER:**

I haven't heard it's going to be today. I think some other states are putting forward their plans is my understanding. But quite sure Queensland's put a very strong plan forward to the AFL and like I said the other day, we've hosted more than 40 games to date. I think it's going to be up to about 70 and I think honestly, with our record on hosting world class events like the Commonwealth Games we're ready for this. We can do this to help Victoria out for a once in a lifetime opportunity.

**REPORTER:**

Steve, can we just quickly as you – you mentioned about the 51 year old, how are police hearing about these people that get across the border? Are Queenslanders dobbing them in?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Absolutely. People...I think the vast majority of Queenslanders have heard from us many times, are doing the right thing and we get asked if we're frustrated and disappointed. I'm sure the community of Queensland's frustrated and disappointed when they see people want to game the system. We also get great cooperation from the media so thank you for those of you that have assisted us with this. Look, we're all trying to work through this pandemic together. The whole purpose we do that is to remind everyone is to keep the virus out of this state. And those that want to do the right thing are putting us all at risk so I thank all of those people that provide us that information.

**REPORTER:**

Do you expect more fines to be handed out today [inaudible]?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

I'm not going to comment on that. It's under investigation. I'm obviously not doing the investigation but I have great confidence in the officers that are doing that. They're working through that very deliberately. There remains a criminal investigation as well and that may take some time to work through.

**REPORTER:**

Can we get the Police Minister on the mobile cameras?

**PREMIER:**

Yep, last question.

**MINISTER RYAN:**

Lucky you Patrick.

**REPORTER:**

I don't think the government published the location of this camera that's being trialled but there's social media groups in other states, there's certainly one from Queensland now where this location is known. Is that against the law? Are you looking to stop that in any way?

**MINISTER RYAN:**

Well it doesn't matter which road, which town, which suburb you're in – you've got to drive safely, you've got to follow the road rules and you've got to appreciate that the police and law enforcement could be anywhere at any time. You have a responsibility when you're on the road to do the right thing. If you're speeding, if you're drink driving, if you're driving while distracted you can expect that there will be a police response if you're caught.

**REPORTER:**

Are you annoyed its been published though? Or are you going to do anything about it?

**MINISTER RYAN:**

Well, we want to make sure that everyone knows the message is to drive safely on the roads. These cameras detection devices and in fact our police can be anywhere at any time and people have got to do the right thing. If you don't do the right thing, you'll be caught.

**REPORTER:**

Minister, do you have an update on the police shooting overnight?

**MINISTER RYAN:**

Look, there's an investigation underway. That investigation is being conducted by the Ethical Standards Command and oversighted in the usual way by other agencies. Let's let it run its course. I think that was the last question.

**PREMIER:**

Thank you.

[ENDS]

Released under RTI/DPC



Type: Press conference

Speakers: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Steven Miles and Chief Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young

Date: 28 August 2020

Duration: 44 minutes

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

Today I can report that we have three new cases in Queensland. All three are linked to the academy, the Corrections Academy. So we have two new cases of people living on the Gold Coast, at Pimpama and one new case at Forest Lake. This takes our active cases to 20, our total confirmed cases now is 1113 and the number of tests in the past 24 hours has been 21,653, which is amazing. So, I still want to stress to everyone, it's absolutely very important that if you have any symptoms, please go and get tested. And it's a perfect time, over the weekend, if you're a little bit concerned, please go and get tested. What Dr Young will also mention to you, is that in these cases, the symptoms have been very mild in people. So, we don't want to have virus being circulated out in our community, so it is very, very important that if you have any mild symptoms, please go and get tested over the weekend. I can also confirm, we said yesterday from that trainer, the recruits, and his associates, we had 25 people to be tested, in good news, they have all come back negative. But what we're doing is we're actually testing all of the 200 people now linked to that Corrections Services Academy. So, we'll be updating you over the weekend about the results of those tests. Because we now have a couple of people who have tested positive to COVID on the Gold Coast, we're going to be taking some further immediate actions and Dr Young will explain these in further details. But coming into effect from 8:00am Saturday, we are going to extend those limits of people inside your homes to 10 people, and those gatherings outside to 10, on the Gold Coast and the same restrictions we put in place for aged care, for hospitals, and disability service providers, will also cover the Gold Coast as well. We have to take this cautionary approach. I think everyone would agree, we acted very swiftly when it came to those earlier cases with the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and we know people travel a lot from the Gold Coast to Brisbane, so now it makes absolutely perfect sense to extend that. Dr Young will go into further details about that.

I also want to address the issue of Schoolies. Now, of course we know, we're in a different time at the moment. And of course, the world's going through a global pandemic and things aren't as they would normally be. And can I first of all commend, you know, all of our teachers out there, the students, and the fact that we actually have people attending our schools in Queensland, there has not been those huge disruptions to classroom education that we have seen in Victoria, and we have seen in other parts of the world, and of course I think there are even comments being made about in Europe at the moment, there are concerns about schools going back with large outbreaks of coronavirus in countries such as France overnight. So what I want to say to everyone - I want to thank everyone for the way in which our schools have been opened and the way in that the whole education system has responded. So, we've had to look at this issue very seriously from a cross-agency perspective, but fundamentally, as Queenslanders know, we always listen to the health advice. And the Chief Health Officer has

deemed the event of Schoolies, it is a mass event, over multiple days, is high risk. So, the Schoolies that we have come to know over the years, will not be able to go ahead in that form this year. This is a very tough decision. But it is also a decision that Dr Young will talk about, it's been also discussed at AHPPC about mass events that held across the country. Not just in Queensland, across the country. And this is a mass event. It poses high risk. High risk, not only the people who attend, all the young people, but also all the people they come in contact with, and of course their families and their friends and their grandparents. So, we've had to take that very tough decision. So there will be, unfortunately, no concerts, no organised events, because there can be no mass gatherings. I had a couple of detailed conversations with the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, he fully supports the advice from the Chief Health Officer and I thank him for that. I hope parents can understand and students can understand that this event cannot go ahead in this format this year. So we'll be... the Chief Health Officer and the Director-General of Education will be writing out to all of the schools to inform the schools. And the Chief Health Officer and the Director-General of tourism will be writing out to all accommodation providers. However, we also know our tourism sector does need support. Just as any other person can go along and book accommodation, people are welcome to continue to do that, in those small groups, right across Queensland. And families will be looking at booking their accommodation, and there is nothing wrong with small groups of people finishing school, booking somewhere close to where they live as well. Because so long as they actually abide by those rules and regulations that are set in place for hotel accommodation, then there is nothing to worry about. But I... it's a tough year for everyone. And hopefully, hopefully, things will get better by the end of next year, and we can have a double celebration. But we're in a world pandemic, and I just hope everyone understands that. I know that Minister Di Farmer and minister Grace Grace will talk to young people about the fact they can commemorate the fact they have finished year 12, and some other options and ideas around that. It's been a tough year for everyone. I thank all of the year 12s for the work - the struggle really, they had to go through this year, with school being closed and then open, but we've had to make these decisions because it is about the health of everyone. So I hope everyone accepts that difficult decision but it is the right decision and it is absolutely based on the best health advice that we can give you at this time. So I will hand over to the Deputy Premier and then Dr Young.

### **DEPUTY PREMIER:**

So this is three additional positive cases related to the Corrections Training Academy, bringing to 15 the total number related to the clusters thought to be related between the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and the Corrections Training Academy. It leaves us with 20 active cases in Queensland out of a total of 1113 so far. They are all in their 30s, two from Pimpama – trainees at the academy, and a third from Forest Lake. As the Premier mentioned we had another fantastic testing result, 21,653 tests, which is really, really great. It is putting a lot of pressure on our labs, though, and the turnaround time for testing in our public labs is now just over 40 hours. So, I just urge people to be patient and understand that our lab staff are working around the clock, literally 24 hours a day, trying to turn those tests around as quickly as possible. These are of course the first confirmed cases of community transmission on the Gold Coast. They weren't in quarantine and so it is necessary for us to extend the restrictions currently in place across Metro North, Metro South, and West Moreton, to the Gold Coast. That means immediately the Chief Health Officer will be writing to aged care facilities and hospitals to extend the restrictions in place there, and then commencing at 8:00am tomorrow, that limit on gatherings without COVID Safe Plans of 10 will come into effect on the Gold Coast. Like most things this year have been different to other years and Schoolies is no different. The Chief Health Officer and her colleagues have considered Schoolies a high-risk event. That means that organised events will be cancelled, gathering limits will apply, gathering limits will apply to beaches, to streets, to apartments. Apartment complexes will be required to keep registers of guests to allow for contact tracing. I know that means that a lot of young people will have been looking forward to a Schoolies festival like other young people have had the chance to have, but like everything else this year,

Schoolies will be very, very different. It's important, though, I think, to put the couple of pieces of negative news that we report each day into a global context. Because where we are is very different to where other places haven't been able to get in control of the virus. France reported overnight 6,111 new cases of coronavirus, the highest number since they exited lockdown, but the second highest number of the entire pandemic, suggesting that they are currently heading towards a second wave greater than their first. The UK now reports 41,477 deaths. The USA, just tipped over 180,000 deaths. And so, while understandably we're focused on what is happening in Queensland and what is happening in the southern states, we should also acknowledge that the steps we have taken, difficult as they may have been, have saved tens of thousands of lives.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So, we have three new cases of COVID-19 in Queensland from overnight. And all three cases are linked to the corrections training centre at Wacol. Two of those people live on the Gold Coast, one of them lives in Forest Lake. So because of that, we now need to extend the restrictions that are currently in place for all of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, all of those areas, we need to extend them all the way down to the Gold Coast. The reason being is that all of these cases we have seen related to the Corrections Training Centre have been in younger people, who have had fortunately for them, of course, very mild symptoms. Extremely mild symptoms. And I'm not quite sure of how it's spread within that centre, who is the primary case, because of the mild nature of symptoms, we're just working that through at the moment. But clearly, we do have those linked cases and we do have those two people who live down the Gold Coast. So to protect the most vulnerable, which is our elderly citizens, that's why we need to bring in those restrictions for aged care. Then to protect the people going into our hospitals, we need to bring in that requirement for that additional enhanced use of personal protective equipment in all of our facilities, plus we need to look at visitors going in and out of areas where there are more vulnerable people. Disability accommodation services, and so forth. So all of that will be happening and it will be in place for 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. So people can maintain their parties, their arrangements, they have organised for tonight, but from - because I know all those plans would be in place - but from 8:00 tomorrow morning, gatherings are limited to 10 in your own home, if you're out in public, and it's a non-organised gathering, wherever we've got COVID Safe Plans, that includes for weddings and funerals for restaurants, pubs, clubs, nightclubs, where there's a COVID Safe Plan, those arrangements can continue because of all the work that's been put in place by all those industry groups, by all of the people involved. They are very good plans. They keep people safe. But we know that in people's own homes, no-one would expect them to have a COVID Safe Plan for a gathering which is why there are now limited to 10. So it's all of Brisbane, going down to the Gold Coast. Now we don't need to extend it at this point of time beyond those areas, to for instance, the Sunshine Coast, further up the coast, because we don't have cases there. But they have all been restricted to that gathering limit of 30, and of course, if we were to have cases, then we would also bring in the gathering of 10. But we don't. So this is about Brisbane, Logan, all the way down to the Gold Coast, and Ipswich. And that's very important. And that also then, you can see that we've had to make a really tough decision about Schoolies. I personally feel for this group. They've had a really difficult year. This is a rite of passage. Your last year of school is such an important year to get you prepared for going out and joining adulthood, if I can put it like that. It's such an important year and so much of it has had to change for this group. I'm really sorry that they won't be able to have the tradition Schoolies celebration. But look, I think this group is one of the most resilient, innovative groups, and I'm looking forward to seeing what they will put in place instead of that traditional mass gatherings on the beaches and so forth. They'll find other ways to celebrate, I know they will. They will happen over a longer period. Also, this is a group that often has a gap year, goes away, does different things. They can't do those things. So they'll be around for over that Christmas, new year, into next year, for longer. I expect to see that the celebrations will continue over a longer period of time, and we're working with the accommodation providers to see how they may be able to

facilitate that, see they'll be celebrating in smaller groups, celebrating with their immediate friendship cohorts, of groups of 10 coming together, to celebrate. So there will be still be celebrations, but they'll just be completely different. I was just reflecting, I first heard about this virus in the first week of January. We're almost the first week of September. That's eight months we've all been living with this and people in Queensland have lived with it particularly effectively, when we see what we can do today. As you heard from the Deputy Premier, what is happening in the rest of the world. We need to take advantage of that. We need to continue to be safe, and to maintain all of our social distancing, but also look at what we can do within those restrictions because there's so much we can do. It's really, really important that we just work that through and keep each other, ourselves, and everyone else safe. So, again, the most important thing. These symptoms for some people, particularly younger people, can be exceptionally mild. We know that. We've known that now for quite a while. So, if you've got any symptoms, and particularly, particularly if you live anywhere in the south east corner, with any symptoms, please get yourself tested and isolate yourself because it could well be COVID-19. It's highly unlikely to be the flu, we've got so little flu in Queensland today, we have more COVID-19 than flu in Queensland at this point in time. So please, any symptoms, get yourself tested, whatever you do, don't soldier on, don't. I know Queenslanders are such hard working people and they keep going to work because they don't want to let down their mates. This time, staying home will be what you're doing to support your colleagues at work. So please, get yourself tested and stay home and wait for the result, any symptoms at all. Maintain social distancing, follow those COVID Safe Plans, they've been extremely well-considered, well thought through, they will keep people safe and leave your contact details wherever you go so we can immediately contact you. Because what if you were planning to go and see your grandmother and you gave your grandmother when we know you've been in contact with someone with COVID-19. So that's really important, the more people we can get to download that app, the better. Thank you.

### **COMMISSIONER MARTIN:**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you with respect with respect to events that are currently unfolding at Queensland Corrective Services Academy. When I came before you yesterday, I briefed you on the fact that we'd had a positive case – a senior and experienced trainer at the QCS Academy – that had tested positive for COVID-19 and I'd indicated to you that we were working Queensland Health to identify the primary points of contact at the Academy. A group of 14 recruits and a group of 11 colleague trainers at the Academy that we believed posed the greatest risk of infection. What I can tell you that those [inaudible] of 25 have now been tested and all of those have come back negative. But as part of the work that we've done in consult with Queensland Health to exercise a degree of abundant caution, we've now expanded the testing to include a broader range of people including recruits and other trainers, and as part of that process we've identified one group at the Academy, a group of recruits, a group of 19, we've tested all of those people. Consequently we've received two positive tests from that group. Of those two positive tests, we can identify that one of those people that have tested positive is a 33 year old female recruit, that recruit lives at Pimpama. There is also a 37 year old male recruit also living in the same suburb and they have had particularly close working relationship, having regard for the fact that as they live in the same area, they carpool together, that is their normal custom and practice and so both of those recruits have tested positive. Of that group of 19, six have tested negative for the moment and we are still waiting for the results of the other tests. But all of the people, whether they be staff or whether they be recruits, whether they have come to the Academy for a course or any contact, including contractors or what have you, other people that may work there, are all the subject of testing currently. What we have also ascertained is that there is further person, a fourth case, that has only recently come to light – certainly to my mind in the half hour or so – this individual is a 33 year old male, we know that he was at the Academy and we know that he attended a course and we are now making urgent enquiries with respect to others that he may have been in contact with. So this is a great degree of priority for us, we're working very consistently,

very thoughtfully with Queensland Health in terms of everything that we're doing, in terms of the testing regime and I am incredibly confident that we're doing all that we can, currently, to get to the bottom of this current outbreak. I mentioned to you that corrective services facilities across the state are at stage four and I mentioned to you the stringent requirements associated with the stage four limitations. All of these apply to the 14 correctional facilities from Rockhampton, and including Rockhampton South, and what that means, effectively, is that there is no personal visits, professional visits or any other visitations from outside sources into the corrective services facilities in those areas. It also means that our staff are wearing, appropriately, PPE in accordance with advice from Queensland Health, and also we're making sure that we're limiting access within the corrective services facility from units and yards and facilities, one to the other. It also means that the prisoner [inaudible] – bearing in mind that is some 7000 prisoners across Queensland as a subset of 9000 prisoners in total – are currently being locked away in their cell to isolate them from other prisoners and isolate them from staff to prevent any risk of transmission. This is an important and necessary step and of course you could appreciate this is the last thing that I would want to do, but it is incredibly important in the current environment and we are dealing with a very difficult, unique situation and it requires difficult and unique response. We have a really dedicated, thoughtful plan, guided by the best evidence and the science, and that evidence and science comes from Queensland Health. And all that we're doing currently, in terms of our policy and process is guided by that important work. I want to thank the workforce that I have responsibility for, the 6500 staff that are doing a really good job in a really difficult set of circumstances, again, reinforcing the Chief Health Officer's advice and the advice that I regularly communicate to our staff to make sure that they don't come to work if they're feeling unwell, if they're presenting with flu-like symptoms, they get themselves tested and that they work with us in every step of the way to make sure that our corrective service facilities are safe. Safe for themselves and colleagues, and safe for the prisoner population. There is a lot at stake, they're doing a great job and I want to thank them for the work that they're doing.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

Good morning. So in the last 24 hours we saw 60 domestic flights come into Queensland, 2169 passengers were processed. We refused 12 persons entry. At our roads, we intercepted 3273 vehicles, turned around 109 persons and 276 persons were placed into quarantine. Regrettably we are still seeing people doing the wrong thing and over the last couple of days we've issued a penalty infringement notice for a worker at a massage parlour on the Gold Coast for not abiding by the COVID Safe Plan. We unfortunately saw a male person at a hotel quarantine on the Gold Coast attempt to leave unlawfully, that person was stopped by our partner agencies helping us, including the ADF, he became aggressive, police had to intervene. He was arrested and placed before the court and appeared at Southport yesterday and was fined \$3000 and now is back in quarantine. So the message there, of course, is that if you're in quarantine, you need to complete it. Also unfortunately we saw a heavy vehicle stopped at the M1 vehicle control point yesterday where that person had a false declaration and was fined \$4000 and turned around. I will just show you very quickly that the investigation into the Lady Pamela continues, that is a little complicated. We're having to work with Maritime Safety Queensland and also the New South Wales Police Force because we're looking at not only the actions of that vessel and its occupants in Queensland, but also in New South Wales. I will just finish off by saying that with respect to Schoolies, as we've heard, that is a different posture this year. People need to understand also that we will still increase policing presence for that period. Gold Coast is always busy at that time of the year. We will have an increased policing presence on the God Coast for that period and in addition to our normal policing, we will be very strongly focussing on the Chief Health Officer's directions and making sure that people are complying with them.

**REPORTER:**

On [inaudible] we were told there were three, now we're told there are four.

**DR YOUNG:**

There was the original one, and three more. So we had one yesterday that I told people about and now we've got three more on top of it, so four in total.

**REPORTER:**

Two from Pimpama?

**DR YOUNG:**

Two live in Pimpama, one in Forest Lake.

**REPORTER:**

[inaudible] which is the fourth case?

**REPORTER:**

And is the third positive a recruit as well?

**DR YOUNG:**

We are getting all the details, but we understand... because I only got that one literally just minutes before coming up here for this press conference, I am getting all the details. But at this stage I understand he attended one of the courses at the centre. And then the other two were in the dining room, so they weren't part of... so as the Commissioner went through in great detail, there were initially 25 people that I was particularly concerned about who'd had close contact with that original person who was positive. All of those have tested negative. Remember now they've got 14 days quarantine from when they last had contact, but their first tests came back negative. Then we did go out broader and go through the entire centre and started testing more people, just because we weren't quite sure where the first person actually contracted the infection, so we wanted to do much broader testing, and we've got out of that, two people who did attend the centre and went to the dining room. So, they've been at the centre. And then the other one I just got this morning who hadn't been in the dining room, but had been on a course.

**REPORTER:**

So we don't know whether the first one from that first group of 25 has actually [inaudible].

**DR YOUNG:**

No, you're absolutely right, yes. So we now have four cases in the centre and we've now got to work through when each case first got symptoms, so who gave it to whom, I think that the two new cases got it from someone – I don't think they gave it to each other – they've got it from someone else. And I suspect the original case from yesterday might've also got it from someone. So, there's a lot of work to go through here, but the good news is that it is at this stage, we haven't seen any other cases out in the community, so it looks like it is all confined to people within that centre.

**REPORTER:**

Will we have new places in the community where these three may have been?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. But of course we're doing that today. So as I said I only just found out about the fourth one. The two before that I found about last night, so they started talking to them last night to find out where they've been. But given they live in the Gold Coast and given that, I understand, they've had symptoms for a little while I am concerned about where they've been in the Gold Coast which is why I think we need to immediately put those additional restrictions on the Gold Coast no different to those we have in Brisbane.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, the Deputy Premier said that these were the first confirmed cases of community transmission on the Gold Coast. Is that true if we know they might have gotten it from a prison – is it community transmission?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's community transmission but they've got it in the centre. I'm pretty sure they got it in the centre. But it is community transmission and they've been out in the community, so there's a real risk that they've spread it in the Gold Coast.

**REPORTER:**

Do you consider this to be a second wave or because we haven't had a large number of community transmission, not yet?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well we've got 20 active cases, so I don't consider it a second wave. When you hear that other countries are getting 6000 cases a day, that's a second wave. This is not. And if you look at Victoria, how many cases they were getting a day – up to 700 a day. So no. But this is concerning, it is an outbreak. But it is one outbreak. It is one outbreak in this centre, and then we've had another outbreak in the Youth Detention Centre and we're still looking to see whether there are links between those two centres.

**REPORTER:**

Can I ask you about the Ballina case of the twins...

**DR YOUNG:**

That's very, very sad, yes.

**REPORTER:**

Did the woman or her doctor ask Queensland Health for an exemption?

**DR YOUNG:**

I can't go into specifics. Of course, I can't. I mean this is private for them at a time of grief. But what I can say is that you can go online, you can look at the direction and in the direction it very clearly says that anyone can come across the border in an emergency. So the police do not stop; ambulances, they do not stop; life light helicopters. Queensland provides emergency services to the northern part of New South Wales and none of that has changed during this pandemic. Absolutely none of it.

**REPORTER:**

And that was the case when she needed that for her baby...

**DR YOUNG:**

It has never changed. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January till now we have continued to provide all of the emergency services that we have provided for decades to northern New South Wales. None of that has changed.

**REPORTER:**

So you're saying that she would not have required an exemption?

**DR YOUNG:**

I am saying that.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, the Opposition has said that this process needs to be more compassionate and consistent, not have one rule for the rich and another rule for everyday Australians. What do you make of those comments?

**DR YOUNG:**

I believe I am a compassionate person, and at this point in time – but we are working through the process – all of these exemptions come to me and I work through them. That's not sustainable because we are getting so many requests now. We are getting very large numbers of requests, particularly from Victorians who want to come up to Queensland because they don't want to remain in lockdown.

**REPORTER:**

Do you have any sort of figure on how many exemptions have been... how many people have applied for exemptions and how many have been granted?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes, we do have those figures and very, very few people have been granted exemptions. The reason being – can I just explain to people that our hotels here in Queensland are managed jointly by Health and Police. We have health support at every single one of our hotels in Queensland. That doesn't happen in other states. So we can provide all of the support that is needed in these facilities for anyone. And that is where we need people to be. That has what has kept Queenslanders safe, by putting people in quarantine who are at risk of getting this infection, and we will continue to do that.

**REPORTER:**

If that is right that anyone needing medical attention urgently can cross the border, not asked for an exemption, waved through, that flies in the face of the Premier's comments that Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders.

**DR YOUNG:**



Yep. So if you need new care, right, you've got a new issue and you need new care for that then it makes absolute sense – we've never done this before, our hospitals have been open to everyone – but if you need new care, you don't have a relationship with anyone in Queensland, it makes sense to go somewhere in New South Wales. New South Wales has got very, very good hospitals and healthcare. Ours are excellent, of course they are. But they've got them. So people can go locally. And I actually genuinely believe, and we do this in Queensland, that whenever possible you should care close to where you live. You shouldn't be travelling for hours to get care. So this applies to people who live in New South Wales. But for those people who in the middle of their cancer treatment, in the middle of the obstetric care, of course they're being given exemptions to continue that care in Queensland. I have not denied a single one. But for those people wanting to come to Queensland for the first time for care, I am questioning, I'm not denying but I am questioning, why can't you get that care in New South Wales.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, can we get you on this issue. Queensland copped a bit nationally over this compassionate issue, and your comment about Queensland hospitals...

**PREMIER:**

No, no, I think we're very compassionate, Patrick. We are very, very compassionate in this state, and as Dr Young said very clearly if there is someone that needs emergency care, if they need a helicopter to fly them to one of our hospitals, that will happen. If they need an ambulance to come and the clinicians decide the best place and the fastest place to go, they will not be stopped from going.

**REPORTER:**

Do you regret that comment?

**PREMIER:**

No, because these are really difficult decisions, and as I said, people deserve the best healthcare, and as Dr Young said, if they can get the healthcare locally then that is good, if it is an emergency or if we have the expertise of course we'll do that. But we are living through a global pandemic at the moment.

**REPORTER:**

Draw in the dots there. It seems that I've asked Dr Young the same thing. It seems that this woman ordered a doctor, did not seek to come into Queensland, they chose [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

Well Lane, I don't know the specific details but I do not get involved in individual cases. These are clinicians that make these decisions in the best interests of their patients. And this is an absolute tragedy about this young baby. I mean there's a woman who's grieving at the moment and many people know what that feels like. So, you know, if the clinicians make that urgent decision about where a person needs to go or a young person, they will be made in the best interests of that young person.

**REPORTER:**

Scott Morrison yesterday called for a common set of principles in terms of the borders, is this something you would commit to?

**PREMIER:**

We will continue to do whatever we do to keep Queenslanders safe. And what we have seen is that our borders are keeping Queenslanders safe.

**REPORTER:**

Do you think there needs to be more of a national consistency though for the laws around borders?

**PREMIER:**

Look I think what there needs to be is a national consistency where we are focused on fixing up Victoria. I have said that time and time again. Why are we not throwing all of our efforts at getting Victoria under control? We've seen what's happening in aged care, that's being debated heavily at a national level down at Parliament this week. There's community outbreaks in New South Wales, and now we are getting on top of the issues that we have here at the detention centre and the Correctional Services Academy. You need to act swiftly and you need to act fast and that's exactly what we're doing.

**REPORTER:**

Just on Schoolies, how do police possibly patrol every apartment block on the Gold Coast with tens of thousands of kids there.

**PREMIER:**

Yeah well I think, Lane, what Dr Young was saying and I'm happy to say this as well, is that I don't think there necessarily needs to be a particular week that young people are going away. And what we're encouraging people to do is, and this is for Queenslanders in general, to go out and back their local providers.

**REPORTER:**

But most of those kids have booked 18 months ago. They're going to go there at that point.

**PREMIER:**

Well it's going to be very different. It's going to be different. They have to register and there has to be COVID... like the individual hotels will have their plans in place, but there are going to be no organised events and it's not going to be the event that everyone thinks it's going to be. So I think people should reconsider and maybe they might think about well you know we won't go that week, we'll go the following week. And that way we're also supporting our tourism operators over a longer period of time.

**REPORTER:**

If that's the case will you be calling on some of those apartment block owners to do the right thing and refund money?

**PREMIER:**

Look I'm quite sure they will. I'm quite sure that people know that we are in difficult circumstances at this time, and as I said the Chief Health Officer and our Director-General of Tourism will be writing to all of those providers as well. And there will be limits on the number of people that are allowed in units, there will not be mass gatherings and there will not be large parties. But I remember, way back when I went many, many years ago, we went down with a group of friends and we stayed in an apartment and we celebrated the end of our year with our close friends. And I'm quite sure that we are definitely not stopping that.

**REPORTER:**

Just back on borders, sorry, so you don't back a common set of principles of this stage while Victoria [inaudible].

**PREMIER:**

I back that we need to focus on getting Victoria and New South Wales under control and of course, we are focussed here on Queensland of getting these issues under control. But we know that the border will not be open to Victoria for a long, long time until there is no community transmission and we have set that same principle for New South Wales and ACT as well.

**REPORTER:**

Just on something different, a decision on [inaudible] smelter to be made in the next few weeks. We've seen the government in to save the smelter the last three times, [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

We are in discussions, these are confidential discussions at the moment but we know how many... there is a lot of workers that work there and the Minister for Resources is having discussions with Glencore. So they're commercial discussions at the moment, but of course our priority is to keep that workforce going.

**REPORTER:**

When can we expect a decision on [inaudible]?

**PREMIER:**

When those discussions are completed.

**REPORTER:**

And do you think taxpayers should pay for a feasibility for a new coal fired power station?

**PREMIER:**

In relation to that, I think that if the Federal Government wants to do a feasibility study on the coal fired power station, they should go ahead and do it.

**REPORTER:**

You don't mind taxpayers paying?

**PREMIER:**

If they want to use taxpayers money, they can do that, that is their decision.

**REPORTER:**

Does that put you at odds with your federal counterparts?

**PREMIER:**

I don't think so. I don't care if it does, frankly, because in Queensland we have a very strong resources industry and we also have a target of 50 per cent renewable energy, so I value all of those jobs. I value those coal miner's jobs, but I also value the jobs in renewable industry and you saw just last week we announced our plan for renewable energy zones. And of course our resources industry is open at the moment, when around the world, South America, other countries, India, shut down. So you need metallurgical coal for steel.

**REPORTER:**

A quick question for the Deputy Premier if that is okay? You mentioned on the ABC this morning there had been a stretch on resources covering the Ipswich Hospital ED staff, how many of those staff are in quarantine at the moment?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

I don't have those exact numbers, but I am happy to share them in general terms. We do know that one of the confirmed cases from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre went to the emergency department and was treated at the hospital and therefore there are a number of staff there considered contacts who currently are unable to work. And so we've deployed doctors and nurses and other staff from other hospitals to Ipswich.

**REPORTER:**

Is that like dozens?

**DEPUTY PREMIER:**

It is around those kinds of numbers, yes.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, I think it might be flagged with you from our regions, FIFO workers exemption. There is a bit of concern about the mental health of the family of a man, he apparently across seven weeks is doing four weeks quarantining in Queensland and Victoria where he works on an oil rig or something off Bass Strait you might be aware. They are quite concerned for him, why aren't you giving that sort of case an exemption?

**DR YOUNG:**

I was, except that he flies in through Tullamarine Airport and we've had a very big outbreak at that airport. So initially I did declare that people could transit through airports if that is all

they did, and that is fine still for Sydney Airport for instance. But Tullamarine has become a risk, so we discussed it at great length at AHPPC. It is difficult, I feel for him, I remember that exemption, I considered it. It took me a while to work myself through it, because yes, I really do feel for him and I hope that his employer can do some work there to sort it out so that it can be managed better than what it is. But it is purely about the risk of going through Tullamarine Airport. So there are other airports they might be able to work through.

**REPORTER:**

And just to clarify Dr Young, with these youth detention centre and the training academy, are we treating those as two separate clusters or one cluster?

**DR YOUNG:**

At the moment I am treating them as two separate clusters but I suspect we'll find they're linked because they are in the same area and a lot of the people live in the same places. So I suspect we'll find they're linked, but at this point in time I am treating them as two separate clusters.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, just a quick question for Toowoomba. You touched on it yesterday with boarding schools. Do you have an update on whether students will be allowed to go home and vice versa?

**DR YOUNG:**

Of course, so no different to back in June. So I met with various representatives from the boarding school community last night and talked them through it. So they've done it before, they did it extremely well, they've got all their systems in place. So any children who live in the New South Wales declared border zone can cross over into Queensland without any quarantine, and they can go above. I've given them an exemption to allow them to travel beyond the Queensland border zone. Normally you can only travel between the two border zones, but for those children they can straight from when they cross the border, through to the boarding school, wherever that may be, without stopping between the two. So that is in place. Then I've also said that anyone who lives south of the border zone in New South Wales can return to Queensland, so I've given an exemption that they can continue to come to Queensland for their education because education is so important. So they will need to quarantine, but I have given them an exemption because the boarding schools have excellent COVID Safe Plans that we've worked through. I have given them an exemption that they can do that quarantine in the boarding school. So they must have their own bedroom, a single use bathroom, they get their meals in their room. So the boarding schools have done that before very effectively, they will do that again.

**[ENDS]**

Engagement: Press Conference

Speaker/s: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier  
Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer

Date: 30 August 2020

Duration: 37mins 40sec

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## *E&OE*

### **PREMIER:**

...overnight taking our active case numbers to 28. So, our total confirmed cases now stand at 1121, and the number of tests that have been conducted in the last 24 hours has been 10,558. So I really want to thank everyone for going out and getting tested, and since we have had this latest cluster, we have now had 131,186 people who have come forward for testing. So I do want to do a big shout out to all those people, but remember, it's absolutely critical that if you have any symptoms, please go and get tested. So, in relation to these four cases, like yesterday's cases they are known contacts of people, of existing cases, linked to the Corrective Services Academy, and of course we wish all these people well. It wouldn't be easy to get a test result saying that you are positive, and we do wish all the best to the people who have had a positive test result. Of course, everyone is also aware that as of 8am on Monday, those restrictions of aged care visits, and the number of people you can have in your home and outside at gatherings, without a COVIDSafe plan, will extend to South Burnett, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, and Western Downs Local Government Areas. Of course, that does not apply if you are going to a restaurant or a cafe or a bar where you have COVID-safe plans in place.

Now Dr Young will talk a little bit more about these four new cases that are known contacts, but I can say that three reside in Forest Lake and one in Collingwood Park. So, Dr Young will go through more details about those specific cases, but before handing over to Dr Young, I just want to talk to Queensland about a really important issue, and that is dealing with mental health. So, from tonight, we will be launching a brand-new mental health campaign, awareness campaign, called Do You Mind. It is very important in this time. Look, we've had a lot of change in our community so it is absolutely crucial that we talk to our loved ones, our friends and family and just ask them "are they going okay?". This pandemic is taking a toll on everyone and everyone will be impacted on some way. Whether that's not seeing friends or family as much as they used to, or with these restrictions in place, not being able to go and see your loved ones in aged care facilities or visit a close family friend who may be in hospital, or a loved one. So we know that is taking a toll on everyone, and this is a great opportunity, a great time, with this awareness campaign, to actually stop for a moment and check on one another to make sure that everybody is going okay. And of course, if you are not, there is no problem in going and seeking help. In fact, that is what we should be encouraging people to do. If you have lost your job, of course, that is going to have a huge impact on not only yourself but your family and friends as well. So we want to help people as

much as possible, that is why we have put funds into this awareness campaign, but also, to \$46 million is also going to support lots of organisations across Queensland to cope with any added volume of people that may be seeking help during this time. I will hand over to Dr Young to talk more about these cases, but of course remember, if you have any symptoms, please go and get tested. Please do not go to work. Do the right thing. And we do expect to see some more cases over coming days, because of the contacts of families and friends of the people from the clusters. And once again, I do want to pay a big tribute and shout out to all of our contact tracers who are doing an incredible job. The rapid response... Queensland Corrective Services and Youth Justice and of course Queensland Health and all of the people out there that are conducting the testing as well. It has been first-rate, and I do want to pass on Queensland's thanks to all those people who are doing an outstanding job to keep Queenslanders safe. I will hand over to Dr Young.

### **DR YOUNG:**

So, we have four new cases overnight. All four of those are close contacts of a known case, so we don't have unknown transmission happening in our community in Queensland today, but we have to be alert to that. We have now had over 101 days of infectious people out in our community in the last 14 days. So that means there has been those 101 opportunities for people to get infected, so we know that we will see more cases. It is critical that people, if you have any symptoms at all, don't think it is anything else because it is most likely to be COVID-19. So come forward and get tested, and thank you so much to all those people who came forward yesterday to get tested. That's really, really important.

So specifically, these four new cases, three of them live in one household and they live in that household with two other cases that we already knew of. So it is not surprising that's occurred, and that is why it is so important that household gatherings cannot be more than 10 people. We know that at this stage of an outbreak it is household transmission and transmission from one household to other households that is the key trigger for increased cases. We saw that very, very clearly down in Victoria. So that limit of 10 people in a household – that's all the people in that household, including the people in the household and any visitors... although of course if you normally have more than 10 people, of course those people can continue to live there, but you cannot have more than 10 people if that means visitors coming in and increasing that number. That is just absolutely critical. So those are those first three cases. We are just tracking down where those three cases work and where they go to school or go to childcare. So we will have further information on data and there will be contact tracing that will occur, of course, at those facilities to see whether there are further close contacts that we need to go into quarantine. That will happen through today.

Then the fourth case is a person who was in close contact with a known case, but not in a household. This was at a gathering that this person was at. Now, we do know they attend the Staines Memorial College. They attend that school and that school has alerted other students and families about the case and indeed it is associated with a church, so that people were told not to attend. There will be more work done today. That school of course will go through the usual cleaning, there will be contact tracing occurring, and until that can all be finalised, that school will be closed. So they have already started all that work and we will see how far that gets through today, as to whether it is able to open tomorrow or not. But that school has a

very good system in place and they've already contacted all of the families. So that is our fourth case. So all four cases, known contacts, we are going to expect to see more cases like this where people have been known contacts.

Now, because some of the confirmed cases travelled out to Toowoomba, a decision was made yesterday that we need to protect the vulnerable people who live in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service region. So that is people who live in Cherbourg, Goondiwindi, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs. So we have brought in exactly the same restrictions for those areas as we now have in place for all of Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Gold Coast. So for all of that area, and Redlands, that greater Brisbane area. So the same restrictions. The same restrictions on aged care, disability accommodation services, on visiting people in hospital, on the use of personal protective equipment in hospital, and most importantly of all, that limitation on gatherings to a maximum of 10 people. So that is any gathering that occurs where there is not a COVID-safe plan. So, weddings and funerals can still have 100 people as long as there is a COVID-safe plan in place and it's followed.

Although, can I make one comment about funerals? I heard a very sad discussion yesterday that at funerals, people who are living in a household feel that they can't comfort each other at the graveside. Of course they can. If people in the same household, so they are comforting each other in their own home, they can comfort each other at the graveside. Funerals are such a difficult, difficult place, so yes, of course. If you live in the same household, you do, you must comfort each other. There is no additional risk doing that, because you are already in the same household. Different households, no, you can't, because then there is a real risk you will spread it, and the work that the funeral industry has been doing to make funerals COVID-safe has been exceptional.

Then a few other things I would like to raise. So over the last few days I've been saying to people that this is the time to get out those flat surgical masks that you can now buy anywhere. You know those masks? Or if you've made masks, with three layers of thickness, they're effective as well. Not quite as effective, but they are pretty good. It is really time to start using them. If you can't socially distance when you go to the shopping centre, use a mask. Try to always socially distance. That is far, far more effective. But if you can't do it, use a mask. If you are in a taxi or a rideshare or on public transport, that is a time to wear a mask, because you can imagine we have all got our windows closed, it is a bit cold at the moment for Queensland...so we are sitting in a confined space, we're in a taxi or a rideshare or our own car, and if there is anyone who is not part of the household who is in that car, really, think about using a mask to protect yourself and protect others. Because you can't socially distance in a car for instance. And public transport, if you can't socially distance there, wear a mask.

And then, also, I know a lot of people are still very, very effectively working from home and that is excellent. Continue doing that. If you can effectively work from home, then do that. If you can't, there is nothing to stop you going to work. Go to work. We've all got our COVID-safe plans in a workplace. But if you are working from home, and it is working for you and your manager and your colleagues, then work from home. Maybe not every day but intermittently it's a good idea just to lower the amount of engagement out there. This is not



because I think there's any increased risk. It's just I'm trying to manage the risk going forward, because we know that the cases we have today are a result of what was happening two weeks ago. So really this is just being ultra-cautious and thinking about everything we can do so we can maintain our society as much as possible. It's really important that we maintain our workplaces, our schools, our hotels, our restaurants, our clubs, our cafe 's. We've got excellent COVID-safe plans. If we stick to them and use them, we can continue going forward while we manage this current cluster. This cluster is growing. Four cases today, four cases yesterday. But we can keep that all under control and not have to impact on the rest of our lives and what we're doing. As long as we adhere to just a of those straightforward requirements that are out there. Thank you.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young have you identified the case linking the detention centre with the academy?

**DR YOUNG:**

We have identified one link between the Brisbane Youth Detention centre and the academy. so there was one of the case you was a close contact of a worker at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre who is a friend of one of the partners of one of the workers at the academy so you can see the tenuous nature here. So that is one of the cases so we've identified that link and we believe the worker at the academy actually contracted the infection from their wife who is the friend of a partner of one of the workers at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. But that's one case. We haven't worked out the other cases at the academy... where they've contracted their infection but we do know, just with that one case alone, there are a lot of links between the people who work at the Brisbane Youth Detention centre and the people who've been attending the academy. As one would expect. So there's a lot of social links, there's a lot of professional links. So we imagine that that's where all of this has happened. Although we haven't confirmed if for all of the cases.

**REPORTER:**

You're happy now to sort of deem that as one cluster between the two facilities?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think it probably is one cluster, but I don't have all the direct links. Of course, we're doing all that genome sequencing and that will give us a better idea but I suspect that we'll see that they're all tightly clustered around one genome with very few changes in it. So it won't give us absolute definitive proof. But as we unravel all of these contacts, which our contact tracers are doing – they're very effective, they're very experienced – we'll find more of these links.

**REPORTER:**

With that Collingwood Park case you mentioned it's a close contact but is that the first example of it being someone who's either not a worker at either of those facilities or a household member of one of those people?

**DR YOUNG:**

Sort of, but you've got to remember that some of those others as I just explained were social contacts. They weren't work related contacts, they happened outside the work setting. So we do have community transmission happening here but we know where it's happening and how it's happening.

**REPORTER:**

But am I right in saying all of the previous cases have either been people that worked in the detention centre or academy or someone who lived in their house?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. no. we've had people who didn't live in people houses. So as I say, we're getting up there with these numbers so you'd expect that you've got people who are interacting with other people.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, just to confirm, this current cluster that we're talking about now that is also directly linked to those women who went to Melbourne and came back? Is that correct or....

**DR YOUNG:**

Well....we haven't done all of those linkages as I said. We've found one case that is linked to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and we believe that, on the balance of probabilities, that the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre is linked to the Melbourne Logan cluster but we don't have definitive proof and we don't have the epidemiological link. But given that we don't have other cases out there and we're doing so much testing as you've heard. You know, 10,000 cases, day after day, up to 20,000 cases. So I think if we'd had another cluster out there we would have found it. But it's still possible. So until we've done all of the genome sequencing of all of these current cases it's difficult to say exactly.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young, in regards to that school, Staines Memorial College, are you setting up any extra clinics? Do all the students and families who attend that school now have to get tested?

**DR YOUNG:**

That's the contact tracing that's happening. So this was an older boy who mightn't necessarily have had contact with everyone. If you think earlier on we had a school cleaner who I was very worried about because they'd been through the entire school. So we had to contact trace everyone because we didn't know exactly where she'd been and who shed' been into contact with and if she'd left...if there were any fomites that she'd coughed and left virus. Whereas this is a very, very different situation. This is one student and if we can work through when that student was infectious and at the school and where they went in the school and who they had contact with we mightn't need to close down the entire school. So that work is all happening today.

**REPORTER:**

And what about the Fig Tree Pocket Early Childhood Centre. I saw that a letter went home to families yesterday. They now have to self-isolate. Can you take us through that?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So we just have to work through again. That's only recently...we've only recently become aware of that so we'll just have to work through. Again, childcare centres...some child care centres have their children in total separate rooms and there's no linkages, there's no shared area. Others have everyone sharing so we just have to work through all of that and see what it means.

**REPORTER:**

That's connected to one of the four new cases?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. I believe so.

**REPORTER:**

And that's a child that's been infected or a staff member?

**DR YOUNG:**

A child.

**REPORTER:**

You mentioned a figure about 101 days since...can you explain that?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. So it's very complicated. It is...so if someone is out in the community for five days before they get tested and they self-isolate, that's five days potentially that they could have infected other people. So we just did a piece of work on Friday and added up all of the days in the last 14, because that's the incubation period, that people, known cases, had been out in the community while infectious. So there were 101 as of Friday night. That will have increased over the Saturday, Sunday with the eight additional cases. But you can imagine my concern. 101 is a lot of opportunities. We had far fewer days when someone was out in the community infectious with that Melbourne Logan cluster of five people.

**REPORTER:**

You're not going back 100 days?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. No. I'm sorry, I didn't explain that very well. It's the last 14 days we've had 101 days worth of opportunity for people to get infected.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, just in regards to masks, obviously you're stepping up a notch there of how important it to wear it and when to wear it. Can you see a point if a gradual increase in numbers continue to occur, do you see a point where masks become mandatory?

**DR YOUNG:**

I do see a point but not for a while. I think there are some settings there could be a point at which we mandate masks but not for the general community. Not at this stage. No.

**REPORTER:**

Are you happier with testing numbers? We talked about over 10,000 in the last days. Is that enough at this stage?

**DR YOUNG:**

Of course I'll always want more testing but I only want people who are sick to come forward and get tested. We're finding that all of these people that we're testing who are positive, they've got symptoms. So it's really, really important if you've got any symptom at all that you come forward and get tested. Now, I don't have this data for Queensland but I do have it for nationally. Nationally some work's been done to look at what percentage of people who have fever and cough are coming forward to get tested and it's about 50 per cent. So, I don't know what it is here in Queensland but it could also be similar or it could be much, much better. It actually doesn't matter. The answer is that if you've got any symptoms or fever or history of fever, it's really important that you're the person who needs to get tested. We don't need people who are well to get tested unless they're close contacts and we'll be asking you to get tested. You don't need to come forward. This is about people out in the general community. Any symptoms, just come forward and get tested. And it's if you've got symptoms that we really need you tested.

**REPORTER:**

Do you know if potentially we're looking at further restrictions in the south east or are you confident that this cluster's fairly contained?

**DR YOUNG:**

I think... I'm not confident the cluster is completely contained which is why we need to have the restrictions that have been put in place. But I am confident that we have really, really good COVID safe plans and as long as people comply with them – and it's not easy. I recognise how difficult and unnatural it is complying with some of these COVID safe plans but if people comply with them and they minimise those gatherings down to 10 people where you don't have those COVID safe plans then that could be enough to get us out of this current cluster. That's really important.

**REPORTER:**

Has there any thought been given towards movement restrictions?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, not at the moment. Again, because we have got really good COVID safe plans. Now of course, if you're sick – don't go moving. You've got to be at home. If you're sick, don't go on that holiday or that trip. Just stay at home. But I think people have heard this and I can see, just in the information that we're getting now, the people we're testing now who are positive have been in the community for a much shorter period of time than the people at the start of this new outbreak. Which makes sense. So at the start of this new outbreak people weren't thinking "I might have COVID" because we were getting fairly comfortable with where we are. Now people are thinking it and are coming forward and getting tested more quickly which is good.

**REPORTER:**

Were these people that were positive, were they coming forward conscious of their connection to the existing outbreak or was it purely because they had symptoms and they've just gone to get tested?

**DR YOUNG:**

Well these more recent ones today are because they're close contacts and they're getting tested.

**REPORTER:**

None of them were in isolation? They weren't in quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

And they were in quarantine, yes.

**REPORTER:**

All of them?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes. Yes. But not in quarantine during the period when they were infectious. Because that's why I was saying earlier, people are getting tested earlier but these people went into quarantine as soon as they were identified.

**REPORTER:**

And that was, I guess, part of routine testing then while they were in quarantine?

**DR YOUNG:**

No, no. They were unwell. But they're not...they're mildly unwell. So that's the other message. We've got a lot of people out of these two new clusters with very, very mild symptoms. And I can understand why people didn't come forward to get tested. They were really mild symptoms. So that's just the message – doesn't matter how mild the symptoms is, please just get tested.

**REPORTER:**

Yesterday it was mentioned that more broad testing was going to be done in the Arthur Gorrie facility.

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Both prisoners and staff. Are there any of those results back yet?

**DR YOUNG:**

No they aren't but we're out there testing large numbers of prisoners. Remembering, that a prison...correctional centre, means that you can manage that quarantine. They're there. We know where they are so we can...they're in quarantine and now we can just methodically go through and test the people who need to be tested.

**REPORTER:**

And Dr Young, there have been concerns that a lot of people have been seeing café's or schools put things on social media and then it's been 12 or up to 24 hours before those locations have been posted on the Queensland Health website. Why is there such a lag?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's just us getting hold of those people and putting that information. We really want to talk to them before we go and post it. And we are in contact with them so it's just a timing delay.

**REPORTER:**

Is it a bit concerning? 24 hours, is that too long for people to find out?

**DR YOUNG:**

It's not because we're contacting the people that actually matter. We're contacting the close contacts. So the reason we're putting it up on our website is for the casual contacts. And can I say really, that anyone who lives in that south east corner is now, should think of themselves as a casual contact. They might have been somewhere where one of our cases have been. So as long as everyone thinks "is that symptoms a really symptom or it could be, I need to go and get tested" then that's the important message that needs to be out there. We're contacting the close contacts. We know who they are and thank you to everyone who documents their names. It's working really well. We're getting those contact details from people. That's important. So it those casual contacts that we don't necessarily know about and their the ones that we then go and post when we're able to work through all that. But truly, today in south east Queensland any symptom at all, don't wait to be told you might have been somewhere of concern. Don't wait for a phone call to tell you you're a close contact. Just immediately come and get tested.

**REPORTER:**

And how concerned are you about Cherbourg?

**DR YOUNG:**

I'm not particularly concerned about Cherbourg other than it has a lot of vulnerable people who live there. So there is absolutely no evidence at all that any of our infectious cases, our confirmed cases, have gone to Cherbourg while infectious. I'm very, very convinced of that but we know that Cherbourg...if the virus was to get into there would be high risk. So it's part of that area that I've now said needs to limit gatherings and needs to increase the restrictions for vulnerable people.

**REPORTER:**

And why do those new spots head all the way out to Goondiwindi? Has someone been there?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yep. So we have had someone go to Toowoomba to a couple of venues there. And we know that the people out at Goondiwindi and all of those areas use Toowoomba as their base. So it's very, very important. And this is just sending a message that this is a time to be very careful and if we can manage all of this now we won't have to put further restrictions

**REPORTER:**

Premier, just a question for you if I may?

**PREMIER:**

Yeah sure.

**REPORTER:**

Are you aware of a...what appears to be a very large festival at Sandstone Point Hotel last night and many people not socially distancing?

**PREMIER:**

I've only heard some reports but I'm quite sure the police will investigate that. But can I just say to everyone – you have to social distance. If you're not social distancing you're not only putting your lives at risk, but your friends and family. I've heard some reports about the Shannan, I'm happy to follow that up with the police.

**REPORTER:**

Are you disappointed that people would not be social distancing or not getting the message?

**PREMIER:**

Look I just encourage everyone, everyone should be socially distancing. You've heard Dr Young. Now is the time to make sure we are doing all of the right things because we know that there is some virus in our community. So that is why everyone now had a responsibility for themselves but also their friends and family. We don't want to put people at risk.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, will you support or consider supporting a national hotspot definition and what do you think about the Danish traffic light system being....

**PREMIER:**

Well we haven't got any...we haven't got any evidence of that yet so I'm happy to have a look at it.

**REPORTER:**

The Prime Minister has said that he would like to see a national...

**PREMIER:**

Yeah but he hadn't put any proposal to us yet.

**REPORTER:**

So you'll wait and see the proposal?

**PREMIER:**

I'll have a look at the proposal but let me make it very clear. We will do everything we can to protect Queenslanders and to continue to ensure that Queenslanders are safe. Now, our borders, our closure of our borders have been one of the most effective measures we have in combatting this virus. And we know that people wanted to our borders earlier and we would have seen a situation that's happening in Victoria happening in Queensland if that had of happened. And I'm not going to put Queenslanders at risk.

**REPORTER:**

Premier, Clive Palmer as threatened to "take you down" at the election. You must, no doubt, be very fearful of these threats?

**PREMIER:**

Look, Clive Palmer – speaking about borders – Clive Palmer and Scott Morrison put in a joint action to open up Queensland's borders. Clive Palmer fought the Federal Court case against Western Australia. The Federal Government put in their submission. They may have withdrawn from the action but their submission was still part of the evidence. And the Federal Court found that the states have a right, based on health advice, to keep their borders closed to protect their community. So, you know, Clive Palmer – he's got a lot of money, he can do what he likes with that money and obviously he's teaming up with the LNP.

**REPORTER:**

Not overly concerned then?

**PREMIER:**

No, not really. The less said about Clive Palmer the better I think.

**REPORTER:**

With the AFL, do you have any idea when you might hear back from AFL on that decision?



**PREMIER:**

No, the only thing I hear Joel was that last week I think some of the other states were presenting to the AFL and we look forward to awaiting to see the outcome of how those other presentations went and how our presentation went. So fingers crossed. We'll keep our fingers crossed there.

**REPORTER:**

Could this current cluster impact our chances of getting it here?

**PREMIER:**

Claire, look, I don't think so because I think what we've shown very clearly is how our rapid response has been deployed. It's very effective and it's all known contacts at the moment so that's good news. And as I said, we've got all of our agencies working there. And all of the sport is continuing. Just on community sport, can I saw too – it is also very important for people to make sure that they are socially distancing at community sport events as well. We had some concerns about the netball gathering. I had people contact me personally as well about the lack of social distancing that was happening at the netball and hopefully the netball associations with reemphasise their COVID safe plans to everyone as well. We've all got a part to play here.

**REPORTER:**

Just one other thing. I've just had someone literally message via Instagram saying that they're in quarantine on the Gold Coast and have been told for the last three days that they're allowed to have a fresh air break and haven't been given one. They say they've been fed false information. Should they at least be able to get a fresh air break?

**PREMIER:**

Look, I'll have to take the health advice on that. Is that alright Dr Young?

**DR YOUNG:**

Yes.

**REPORTER:**

Just to give you some context – it's particularly stressing for them because the partner is pregnant with a baby.

**DR YOUNG:**

Yeah, it's difficult. I assume you're talking about one of our hotels? Not a home?

**REPORTER:**

Yes. They're in a hotel on the Gold Coast.

**PREMIER:**

We might get some more information and get back to you.

**DR YOUNG:**

Look, we now have 24 hotels with people in quarantine. This is really, really, really difficult. These are people wanting to come up, in the main part, from Victoria and New South Wales for various reasons and this is possibly not the best time for people to be relocating their lives. I know it's really hard for them in other states but people need to think through what they're doing. This is really hard. Now, where we can we are trying to give those fresh air breaks but there's a lot of people in those hotels. We're now approaching 5000. It's really difficult. So they're being managed by Police and Health jointly. So here in Queensland we have health staff involved with every single one of our hotels. That's not the case in other states but we made a decision that we needed health staff and we needed to treat these as step down facilities almost from our health care service to provide support. And so we are providing support to all these people and this is really difficult. It's 14 days that they need to remain in quarantine because if they come out and they have the infection, we can see that one case can lead to multiple clusters. Just one case in Victoria led to thousands of cases. And every day, every day or so we are seeing a positive case in our hotels and each one that we're seeing in our hotels is potentially hundreds, if not thousands of cases we won't see in our community in Queensland. So, I do feel for them. This is really difficult for them. I can understand that. To spend 14 days in those rooms but these are good hotels. They are providing food. I understand they have good internet. They're providing things that they can do and I just thank those people very, very much for doing that 14 days in quarantine.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young just one more if I may – the mask and stay at home advice, is that an escalation of advice or are you just reinforcing it?

**DR YOUNG:**

No. No. I'm just saying...I've been saying now for several days that masks are a good thing. They're an additional protective factor. They should only be used when you can't do all the other things. They're not as good as social distancing. But if you can't socially distance and you're indoors or in a confined space then a mask is a good thing. So that's for masks. So it's really more about the fact that due to some absolutely amazing work that was done by another part of Government to set up local manufacture here in Brisbane we've got the masks. So we've done all that hard work, why wouldn't we start using them. We couldn't do it back in March. If you remember in March, the majority of the world's masks were being produced in Wuhan and we couldn't get them. So for me to go out and suggest to people they wear masks back in March would have been impossible. Whereas now, we've got them so we should use them. They're just sensible. Then the staying at home for workers, that's just a continuation. I'm just continuing to encourage people if you can work from home – and I know from some people that they've actually been far, far more productive, they've found it very effective for them and I think it's one of the things we'll all learn out of this pandemic – if you can work from home, maybe not every day. But you can imagine if everyone has one day a week that they work from home that really works for them that means you've decreased the amount of people out and about by 20 per cent. So it just will help. I'm definitely not mandating it. We're not in the March situation. We're totally, totally different. But I'm just saying, it's not a bad idea if people do that. Jointly, with their employer. And their employer

might like it as well. Because can I say that where I'm seeing most of this transmission happening, it's in the tea room. It's in the social gathering at work. It's not in the workspace. So there are other ways, of course, that the employer could work that through as well.

**REPORTER:**

Dr Young just finally, we've been talking about taking care of ourselves and this being a really demanding time for us all – how are you going?

**DR YOUNG:**

Oh thank you. I'm going very, very well thank you. I've got the most fantastic support group. I'm so glad I'm here in Queensland. There are other agencies, as I just mentioned about the masks, who just take things and run with them. They do them. And then the work that police have done. And then the support from the government here in Queensland is exceptional. And it works so well. We know in Queensland how to deal with crises and we've just got this perfect system and it just rolls out. So it works really, really well. But thank you for asking me. I'm going very well.

**REPORTER:**

Any tips? You just seem to be nailing it day after day?

**DR YOUNG:**

Oh I don't know about that. The tips are to find the best support team you possibly can but you need to organise that team 10 years in advance.

**REPORTER:**

Thank you, thanks everyone.

[ENDS]