

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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2 April 2020

### Commonwealth announces free childcare package

Around one million families are set to receive free childcare during the coronavirus pandemic under a plan announced by the Commonwealth today.



Under the plan, the Federal Government will pay 50 per cent of the sector's fee revenue up to the existing hourly rate cap based on a point in time before parents started withdrawing their children in large numbers, but only so long as services remain open and do not charge families for care.

The funding will apply from 6 April. The plan means the sector is expected to receive \$1.6 billion over the coming three months from taxpayer subsidies.

For more information please click [here](#).



## NSW Health and councils webinar now online

Everyone can now listen to the webinar for councils held by the Office of Local Government yesterday.

Mayors and general managers from across the State participated in the webinar during which they received a

briefing from NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard and NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant on the latest COVID-19 developments.

Councils also submitted questions which were answered during the webinar. These covered a range of topics including the role councils can play in promoting public health in the community, and the importance of maintaining and cleaning public amenities, such as public toilets.

A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#).

Questions asked during this webinar and the previous NSW Health update are being developed into frequently asked questions.



## Mental health resources available for diverse communities

During this difficult and uncertain time it's important that everyone in your community can access organisations, services, and resources to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Multicultural NSW have provided [a list of services and resources](#) that are available in a range of community languages, or that have a tailored approach to supporting diverse communities.

Please consider sharing this valuable information with your community and staff and signing up to receive further updates from Multicultural NSW.

## Together against COVID-19

As new social isolation and social distancing provisions are adopted, it is crucial to ensure local communities remain socially cohesive, engaged, and positive.



Many councils are doing a great job of social cohesion messaging for their communities. To further support this the Office of Community Safety and Cohesion has produced a range of social cohesion communications collateral, including social media tiles, that councils may wish to use.

The Together against COVID-19 collateral package is available for download [here](#).



## Information and resources

### [Summary of first 200 cases in NSW](#)

NSW Health has published a demographic summary of the first 200 cases found in NSW. The data can be found [here](#).

### [Online survey reminder](#)

OLG is reminding councils to complete an online survey each day to make it easier to report their needs and issues. Council can access the online survey [here](#).

### [Data on COVID-19 cases](#)

Councils can access the latest data on the number of COVID-19 cases by local government area and by local health district on the NSW Health website [here](#).

### [Local government resource pack](#)

NSW Health has developed a COVID-19 [resource pack](#) for local government to provide relevant information and resources to local councils in one handy document.

### [Quicklinks](#)

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#) and [Commonwealth Government](#) and [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) websites. The [Office of Local Government](#) also has a COVID-19 section on its website.

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