



What businesses can stay open? Updated advice

SUMMARY

On Sunday 29 March, the National Cabinet agreed on tightened restrictions on social gatherings. There was also strengthened advice recommending working from home wherever possible.

Only minor changes were made to the list of business activities that were required to stop operating on and after Thursday 26 March.

While the strong guidance of 29 March from the National Cabinet is that people stay at home, there is an exclusion for work if work cannot be done remotely.

The Australian Government is implementing a 'Do Not Travel' ban on all Australians travelling overseas (exceptions are to be managed by the *Australian Border Force*) and governments are enforcing 14-day quarantining measures for returning travellers.

Ai Group has provided input to the members of the National Cabinet and is continuing to provide input.

Fundamental advice

In addition to the restrictions on activities listed below, the most fundamental advice is that:

- Australians should stay at home unless:
 - shopping for what you need - food and necessary supplies;
 - attending to medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;
 - exercising in compliance with the public gathering requirements;
 - working and studying if they can't work or learn remotely.
- Social gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors, should be limited to two people. The exceptions are
 - people of the same household going out together;
 - funerals - a maximum of 10 people;
 - weddings - a maximum of 5 people; and
 - family units.

Social distancing measures should be followed – people should stay about two metres from other people in line with the 1 person per 4 square metres guideline.

New activities that are prohibited following the National Cabinet meeting are playgrounds, skate parks and outside gyms in public places. "Bootcamps" will be reduced to two persons, including the trainer.

Gatherings at places such as hospitals, workplaces, construction sites and for public transport can continue.

Every business should operate in a COVID-19 safe manner.

The announcement following the 29 March National Cabinet meeting can be accessed [here](#) and the transcript of the Prime Minister's press conference following the national Cabinet meeting can be accessed [here](#).

What businesses can't operate? (*exceptions in italics*)

There are only minor changes to the list of businesses that can't operate that become effective on and from 26 March.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES SERVICES**Cafes, restaurants and food courts**

However, takeaway and home delivery can continue (including at workplaces) as can cafes/canteens at hospitals, schools, prisons and for the military, also food services to the homeless can continue.

Pubs and registered clubs**RETAIL****Auction houses****Real estate auctions and open house inspections**

However, private appointments for inspections can proceed.

Indoor and outdoor markets (including food markets)

However, these will be a decision for each state and territory.

PERSONAL SERVICES**Hairdressers and barber shops**

Note the previous restriction limiting appointments to 30 minutes has been removed. The 1 person per 4 square metres rule in the premises remains in place and personal contact within the premises should be kept to a minimum.

Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours**Spas and massage parlours****ENTERTAINMENT, SPORT AND FITNESS****Cinemas, nightclubs****Casinos, gaming or gambling venues****Strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues****Concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums and stadiums**

However, live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed.

Amusement parks and arcades

Play centres (indoor and outdoor)**Playgrounds and skate parks** (*effective from 30 March*)**Community and recreation centres**

However, facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.

Health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre and spin facilities, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres**Boot camps, personal training operating outside and inside**

A boot camp or similar with no more than two people including the trainer can proceed (note this has been reduced to two people effective 30 March)

Social sporting-based activities**Swimming pools****ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses will be a decision for each state and territory

However:

- *facilities for permanent residents and workers can continue;*
- *caravan and camping parks will be a decision for each state and territory; and*
- *where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.*

OTHER SERVICES**Galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites****Libraries, community centres, and youth centres****Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools)****Community facilities (such as community halls, clubs, RSLs, PCYCs)****Places of worship, weddings and funerals**

However, weddings with a maximum attendance of no more than 5 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metres rule applies can be held..

Also, funerals attended by a maximum of no more than 10 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metres rule applies can take place.

What businesses can operate?

If your business does not operate in the areas listed above, your business is able to continue to operate, provided you have all the necessary safety protocols in place (see [Member Advice: NAT 009/20](#)) to restrict the spread of the virus. In addition, where your staff can work from home they should work from home.

Ai Group input to Governments

Ai Group made representations to the National Cabinet (the Prime Minister and heads of the states and territories) making the points outlined in a [media release of 22 March](#).

We continue to make further representations and to convey information that Members are providing us about their role in the provision of essential services and in essential supply chains.

Further restrictions are likely to be introduced and we will keep Members abreast of any changes as they occur.

Do you require further advice?

Ai Group has set up a special [section on our website](#) to provide access to Ai Group advice and assistance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burn'.**Peter Burn****Head of Influence and Policy****FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information or assistance, please contact the Ai Group Workplace Advice Line on 1300 55 66 77.