

## COVID-19 TALKIT

A communique for all people living with HIV in NSW

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## FEEDBACK &amp; COMMENTS

[contact@positivelife.org.au](mailto:contact@positivelife.org.au)

## Friday 30 July 2021

Over the past week, Positive Life understands some community members may prefer to receive a particular brand of COVID-19 vaccine despite their ineligibility for that specific vaccine.

Currently there are two COVID-19 vaccines available in Australia: *Pfizer* and *AstraZeneca*. At the present time, people can't choose which vaccine they are offered. This is because access to particular vaccines have been prioritised for particular groups of people, to ensure those at greatest risk are vaccinated first. These vaccines are then given to people based on stock availability and clinical guidance.

The AstraZeneca vaccine is prioritised for people **aged 60 and over years of age**. The Pfizer vaccine is prioritised for people **aged 16 to 59 years of age**. Adults aged 18 to 59 years of age in the Greater Sydney outbreak area are strongly encouraged to consider getting vaccinated with any available vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca.

Based on current best practice medical advice, the best vaccine you can receive is the one you can access now. At the current pace of 1,156,330 doses a week, Australians can expect to reach the 40 million doses needed to fully vaccinate our adult population by mid-January 2022.

To find out which COVID-19 vaccine you're eligible for and where you can book in to get vaccinated, please visit the [Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#). All COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Australia regardless of your Medicare or visa status.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

If you've not been able to work due to NSW COVID-19 public health orders, you could be eligible for the [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#).

The **\$600 disaster payment** applies to people who have lost more than 20 hours a week. The payment can go up to \$750 depending on the number of hours of work lost a week due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

People receiving a Centrelink benefit who have lost more than eight hours of work a week can get a special disaster supplement of **\$200 a week**.

Applications can be made through the [Services Australia website](#), and only need to be made once and then payments will automatically continue for the duration of the lockdown.

If you can't earn an income because you must self-isolate or quarantine, or are caring for someone with COVID-19 you might be eligible for the [Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#).

The **\$1,500 disaster payment for each 14 day period** applies to people who've been directed to self-isolate or quarantine by NSW Health, or are caring for someone with COVID-19.

It's normal to have questions or concerns, and possibly feel a little hesitant about getting a COVID vaccine. When you're looking for more information to answer your questions or allay any concerns you might have, check out this NSW Health webpage to help you make an informed decision – [IS IT TRUE?](#)



## SINGLES BUBBLE

The [NSW Premier has announced](#) a **'Nominated Visitor' (Singles Bubble)** option to allow people who live alone to establish a COVID-safe arrangement with one other person. People living alone can nominate one person to socialise with at their place of residence on more than one occasion. Your 'nominated visitor' is one person who is not a nominated visitor for someone else.

Your 'nominated visitor' will need to live in or be staying in Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour local government areas, and not be living or staying in the following eight local government areas (LGAs) of Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Liverpool, Georges River or Parramatta.

If you are in one of the eight LGAs, your 'nominated visitor' will need to be someone from within that LGA or within a 10km distance.

'Nominated Visitors' will come into effect from 12.01 on **Saturday 31 July 20**.



## SECTOR ADVOCACY

**ACOSS:** The Australian Council for Social Services says nearly [half of the unemployed or part-time workers barred from disaster payments are now at risk of homelessness](#). ACOSS has renewed calls to either expand the eligibility to anyone under lockdown, or at least [raise all existing Centrelink payments to \\$600](#) so no one who has lost work is worse off.

**DA:** Deaf Australia has called on the Australian Federal government to implement the *Provisioning of Accessible Emergency and Disaster Services' Policy* to [ensure the provision of Auslan interpreters so all COVID-19 communications are be fully accessible](#) and that accessible information on mainstream media, including the internet, be included.

**IDA:** The International Disability Alliance has launched [a campaign to call for public health information and communications around COVID-19 to be fully accessible](#). They call for all UN agencies to publish and share their information on COVID-19 in accessible formats, including in which shared materials are accessible online.

**NCOSS:** With the Sydney lockdown extended for another four weeks, the [NSW Council for Social Services has called on](#) the Federal Government to increase financial assistance to people in desperate need across Greater Sydney. NCOSS has also called on the NSW Government to reassess its business support package to ensure that community service organisations

will be appropriately supported as the lockdown extends.

**NSW GOV:** Advocacy by Members of Parliament, Alex Greenwich and Jenny Leong, for a Singles Bubble to be implemented has resulted in the NSW government announcement that [people living alone in Greater Sydney can establish a singles bubble, allowing them to nominate a single person to visit in their home](#).

**NSW SOCIAL PEAK BODIES:** The Tenants Union of NSW, with NCOSS and Homelessness NSW, [have called on the NSW Government to reintroduce the eviction moratorium and financial support for renters](#) to support people at risk of homelessness due to the latest COVID-19 outbreak, and for the Federal Government to immediately reinstate *JobSeeker* and *JobKeeper*.

**PWDA:** People with Disability Australia have [called on the Federal Government to address its poor vaccination rates of people with disability against COVID-19](#). PWDA is also calling on the government to release stats on disability vaccination rates on a weekly basis.

**PIAC:** The Public Interest Advocacy Centre [reports a win as a result of collaboration between consumer advocates and energy retailers](#) that started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Australian Energy Council has [published a guide to support retailers](#) to enhance the support they provide customers who are having trouble paying their energy bills.





## TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS

People who have a **Temporary Visa and are eligible to work** are able to apply for the Australian Government's [COVID-19 Disaster Payment \(Individual\)](#), designed to support workers adversely affected by a state public health order. This can include asylum seekers and international students on a temporary visa with a right work in Australia.

To apply for this payment support, eligible Temporary Visa holders must have a proven loss of income and all documentation ready, including letters from their employers supporting their claim and apply **over the phone through Centrelink's Emergency information line (18 22 66)**.

Potential applicants are advised to review the application questions and **prepare all information** as far as possible before calling. This process can take several hours, and can require multiple phone calls if the information required is not available during the call.

If you need more information about the payment and want to talk to someone in your language, contact **the Centrelink multilingual phone service on 131 202**. If the Centrelink Officer is trained, they may also be able to work through the application

form over the phone. The form is not available for direct access online without a Centrelink ID.

If you have a proven loss of hours worked that are **UNDER 20 hours per week** and eligible for this payment, you could receive \$325 per week,

If you have a proven loss of hours worked that are **OVER 20 hours per week** and eligible for this payment, you could receive \$500 per week.

**Temporary Visa Holders living with HIV** can call Positive Life's Peer Support Officer, Tyler Marks on (02) 9206-2177 for support through this process.

## EMPLOYMENT

**CENSUS WORKERS NEEDED:** The Australian Bureau of Statistics is hiring for the 2021 Census. No experience needed. No resume needed. Temporary (casual) position with variable working hours. Apply at [www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au/fieldofficer](http://www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au/fieldofficer)

The advertisement features the Australian Bureau of Statistics logo and the word 'Census' in large orange letters. Below this, it says 'Hiring Field Officers'. A large orange banner contains the text 'Help your community Census workers needed!'. Below the banner, it lists 'No experience required', 'Temporary (casual) positions', and 'Roles start from July 2021'. At the bottom, it says 'Apply now' with the website 'www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au'. The background of the advertisement includes a map of Australia and several orange triangles of different sizes.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

# Census

## Hiring Field Officers

**Help your community**  
**Census workers needed!**

No experience required  
Temporary (casual) positions  
Roles start from July 2021

**Apply now**  
[www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au](http://www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au)

## LOCKDOWN: POLICE POWERS

NSW's COVID-19 public health orders are complex, and continue to evolve rapidly. It's important to know your rights and responsibilities and to stay informed about ongoing changes.

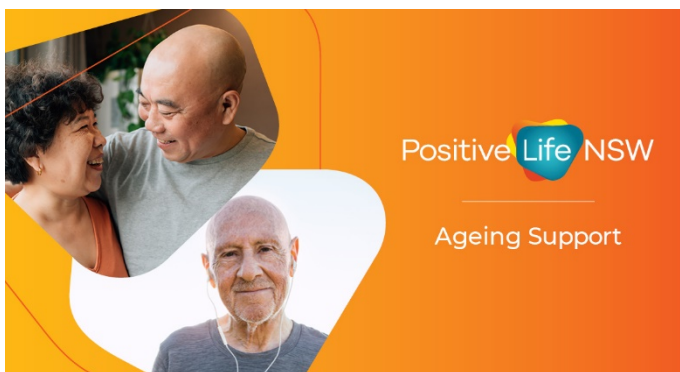
Redfern Legal Centre has published a Factsheet: [Lockdown laws: NSW COVID-19 rules and Police Powers](#) in Greater Sydney for people currently in lockdown in Greater Sydney, and does not include the rules for those living outside of Greater Sydney. Part C of this factsheet includes additional rules specific to workers living in the Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown,

### 4 SUGGESTIONS TO GET THROUGH LOCKDOWN



### POSITIVE LIFE AGED CARE SUPPORT

Living with HIV in NSW, over 45 years and want a hand to make life a little easier? Call (02) 9206-2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall) or email [contact@positivelife.org.au](mailto:contact@positivelife.org.au)



Liverpool and Cumberland Local Government Areas.

The factsheet addresses questions such as

- Do I have to wear a mask?
- Do I have to provide police with my name and address?
- Do I have to tell police the 'reason' I am out of my residence?
- Can I be fined or arrested for not standing not 1.5 metres away from a person?
- Are there restrictions when travelling in my car?
- Can police issue on-the-spot fines for breaching directions including public health orders?

and more.

Redfern Legal Centre also offers an online resource [NSW police powers, fines and COVID-19: resources and factsheets](#), with more information about changes to COVID-19 public health orders in NSW, and information on payment and review options for people who have received penalty notices and court fines.

## No equipment? No worries!



### Mail order NSP available NOW

If you're self isolated or quarantined and need injecting equipment, don't put yourself at risk by reusing or sharing equipment. Instead, contact NUAA — we will mail you out however much you need of all sorts of injecting equipment (including speciality gear like wheel filters). Visit our website for more info about how COVID-19 might affect you as a person who uses drugs.

Ph: (02) 8354 7300 or freecall 1800 644 413 | visit [nuaa.org.au](http://nuaa.org.au)





## PODCAST: THE COVID COLLECTIVE

The Australian Red Cross has launched a podcast series, [The COVID Collective](#). Presented by Francis Leach from the ABC, the series looks at a range of topics, from better understanding and regulating the range of emotions we are feeling around the pandemic, to First Nations' perspectives of community, connection and culture.

The podcast is access on [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#) or [can be heard directly from this webpage](#).



### POSITIVE LIFE TREATMENTS SUPPORT

For all your HIV treatment questions and support, including COVID-19 concerns, call (02) 9206-2177, 1800 245 677 (freecall outside metro) Mon-Thurs 9am to 5pm or email [contact@positivelife.org.au](mailto:contact@positivelife.org.au)



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ABN: 42 907 908 942

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land that we live and work on, and recognise, respect and value the deep and continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to land, community and culture. We pay our respects to Elders, Past and Present.



The voice of all people living with HIV