



Government stimulus to support the economy

The Commonwealth Government has released the second stage of its economic plan to cushion the economic impact of the coronavirus and help build a bridge to recovery.

A total of \$189 billion is being injected into the economy by all arms of Government in order to keep Australians in work and businesses in business.

The economic support package includes:

- Support for households including casuals, sole-traders, retirees and those on income support
- Assistance for businesses to keep people in a job
- Regulatory protection and financial support for businesses to stay in business.

In addition to the \$750 stimulus payment announced on 12 March 2020, the Government will provide a further \$750 payment to social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession card holders,

except for those who are receiving an income support payment that is eligible to receive the Coronavirus supplement.

The first payment of \$750 will be made from 31 March 2020 to eligible people between 12 March 2020 and 13 April 2020.

This second payment of \$750 will be made to eligible people from 13 July 2020.

The Government is also introducing a temporary income support, a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight. This will be paid to both existing and new recipients of the JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance jobseeker, Parenting Payment, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit.

The Coronavirus supplement will be paid for the next 6 months. Eligible income support recipients will receive the full amount of the \$550 Coronavirus supplement on top of their payment each fortnight.

Message from Premier Stephen Marshall

The situation with COVID-19 has developed rapidly in South Australia and around the world.

I know that many people are anxious about what lies ahead. I want to reassure each and every one of you that the health and wellbeing of South Australians is the government's number one priority and we have a strong plan to help minimise and slow the spread of coronavirus in our state.

The government is focused on:

1. Protecting South Australians
2. Slowing the spread of the virus
3. Preparing health and other services to deal with the virus
4. Supporting business to keep people in jobs

We've set up dedicated coronavirus clinics, including in regional SA; we've rolled out Australia's first drive-through testing clinic at the re-activated Repat; we've strengthened public health laws; and we've committed \$350 million for an economic stimulus package to secure local jobs, keep businesses'



doors open and boost South Australia's economy.

We will continue to roll out more initiatives in the coming weeks. We thank you for your patience as we work with the Federal Government as quickly as we can to implement measures to cushion the impact of this crisis.

I know this is a difficult time, but we are doing everything in our power to protect South Australians and ensure our state emerges stronger and more resilient on the other side.

Together, we can and will get through this.

Steven Marshall
Premier
of South Australia

Mitsotakis announces lockdown

The Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a nationwide lockdown which took effect as of Monday 6:00 a.m.

"It must be done in time before it is too late," Mitsotakis announced on Greek television on Sunday and added: "In the name of the common good, I proceed with this decision. I have informed the President of the Republic and the leaders of political parties of my decision," he said.

Mitsotakis thanked the overwhelming majority of people who understood the threat posed by the virus and stayed home.

"I will not, however, allow some frivolous, flippant people undermine the security of the majority. I will not allow that because those few can harm thousands," the Greek prime minister said.

Violators of the total lockdown

will be fined with 150 euros, Mitsotakis said.

All citizens are ordered to stay at home. Exceptions are allowed for those needing to go to work and short trips to supermarkets, doctors, relatives in need, exercise (single or in pair) or to walk their pet.

Also, people returning to their permanent place of residence are exempt from the measure as they travel back.

Reasons for leaving home need to be provided in writing. All those outside need to carry ID/passport.

The move comes as health authorities earlier announced that two more people died on Sunday bringing the total number of fatalities to 15. Confirmed cases have jumped to 624.

It is a response to many Greeks defying calls to stay at home. In-



Syntagma Square in Athens deserted

stead, over the last few days, thousands left Athens and other major cities for the countryside and the islands raising fears that they could spread the virus all over the country. An orthodox priest, Metropolitan

Seraphim of Cypher island, was arrested in Greece on Saturday after celebrating mass in a church, defying the suspension of religious services ordered by the Prime Minister due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Measures by the Government to address coronavirus

The Federal Government has introduced a series of new measures designed to address the unprecedented coronavirus situation in Australia.

In a televised address to the nation on Sunday night, Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned the Australian people that we will be living with this virus for at least six months, so social distancing measures to slow this virus down must be sustainable for at least that long to protect Australian lives, allow Australia to keep functioning and keep Australians in jobs.

The Prime Minister, state and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers met on 22 March 2020 as the National Cabinet. They agreed to further actions to support social distancing measures already put in place and protect the Australian community from the spread of coronavirus.

"Practicing good hygiene and keeping a healthy physical distance between individuals is our most powerful weapon in fighting this virus and saving lives. The failure of some businesses and members of the public to do this puts people's lives at risk", Mr Morrison said.

"We need every Australian to do their bit to save the lives of other Australians.

"Leaders thank those members of the public who are adhering to social distancing

measures. However, leaders expressed their disappointment at some members of the community who are disregarding social distancing measures and, by doing so, putting the lives of older and vulnerable Australians at risk.

"If we want to slow the spread, everyone must implement appropriate social distancing in accordance with state and territory laws", the PM said.

National Cabinet agreed to move to more widespread restrictions on social gatherings.

Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed to implement, through state and territory laws, new Stage 1 restrictions on social gatherings, to be reviewed on a monthly basis.

Australians should expect these measures to be in place for at least 6 months.

The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020:

- Pubs, registered and licensed clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
- Gyms and indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
- Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in en-

closed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies).

Isolated remote community hubs are not included in these restrictions.

These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.

Leaders noted that these enhanced measures build on existing measures to slow the virus and save lives:

- No non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people outside or more than 100 people inside.
- All non-essential indoor gatherings of less than 100 people must have no more than one person per 4sqm. All Australians should expect their local businesses to be following this rule.
- Where possible, keep 1.5 metres between yourself and others

- Avoid non essential travel
- Restrictions on entering aged care homes to protect older Australians.

Leaders acknowledged that these new restrictions will change the way we live and expressed deep regret for those business owners and employees who will be impacted. The goal is to reduce the spread of the virus, to flatten the curve and to save the lives of fellow Australians.

All leaders agreed that children should go to school tomorrow.



Prime Minister Scott Morrison

row. Leaders agreed that we cannot see children lose an entire year of their education as a result of school closures caused by COVID-19.

Leaders committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

Schools will be encouraged to provide access to online and distance learning.

In the meantime, Australia is closing its borders to all non-citizens and non-residents.

Australian citizens and permanent residents and those exempt from our entry restrictions will continue to be subject to a strict 14 days self-isolation.

Greek Community cancels all activities

In light of the developments regarding the Coronavirus pandemic and its rapid spread worldwide, acting in the best interests of the community, the Administrative Council of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Greece, has announced the temporary suspension of all planned social events, religious and other activities of the organization.

Suspended events include the 25th of March celebrations, social gatherings, elderly social programs and all other Community events and activities until further notice.

Also, after continuous consultation with the State Authorities and the Community clergy, the Board wishes to inform the faithful of the following:

Community Life



Members of the Adelaide community at the celebration for the unification of the Dodecanese with mainland Greece in 1947.

• The churches will remain closed, however the priests and chanters will perform the litur-

gies behind closed doors. • The Community clergy encourages the faithful to stay in

their homes where they can practice their religious needs by praying or watching the liturgy through the internet or other digital media.

The GOCSA Board thanks the community for their support and cooperation and ask people to contact their by phone if they have any further needs.

Other community groups suspending their events, bus trips and social gatherings due to the Coronavirus epidemic until further notice, are the Cyprus Community of SA, the Greek Workers Educational Association "Platon", the Pan Rhodian Society of SA and the Greek Ladies Auxiliary "Taxiarhis".

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia has also announced that all church liturgies are suspended until further notice.

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Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Contact: Harri on 0484 387 818 - or email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



LEFT: The Pan Rhodian Society "Kolossos" celebrated its "Ensomatosis" (unification with Greece, 7 March 1947) at a very successful function held on 7 March. The Dodecanse, literally "twelve islands" are a group of Greek islands in the southeastern Aegean Sea, consisting of Rhodos, Kos, Patmos, Symi, Tilos, Kastellorizo and many more. In the photo, children of the Dodecanse in national costumes performed Greek dances



Mayor of the West Torrens Council Michael Coxon, wife Fiona, Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, Steve Georganas MP and Bill Gonis President of GOCSA, at the Pan Rhodian "Ensomatosis" Dance.



The Greek Orthodox Community of SA held its annual International Women's Day event at the Olympic Hall on 8 March. In the photo, Adriana Christopoulos of SAMEAC, Charles Sturt Mayor Angela Evans, Minister Rachel Sanderson, Mary Patetsos Chair of FECCA, Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, Adrienne Clarke (MFS) and Bill Gonis GOCSA President

Archbishop urges faithful not to attend services

Makarios, the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, issued an encyclical statement in regard to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

"What we must emphasize is that according to scientists, the transmission of the virus occurs when we are in close contact with a person who is infected. Therefore, when someone is in Church, even if they have not received Holy Communion, they are in serious danger of contracting the disease and, at the same time, of transmitting this virus to their close family members as well as to other people around them," the Archbishop said.

The statement went on to advise the faithful that they should

therefore not attend services. "For this reason, we advise our faithful, during this critical time, not to attend any events where many people gather, including church services. This measure ensures that the entire community remains safe and protected.

"This guideline is directed to all people; to those who are older and those who are younger and particularly to vulnerable groups of people who constitute a significant portion of our churchgoers," the encyclical noted.

"I am certain that all of us will increase our prayers to God so that a cure can be quickly found for this trial that has beset our planet," the Archbishop concluded.

New apartment issue continues

In the meantime, the discussion continues about a luxury apartment bought recently by the Archdiocesan property trust to be used as the residence of the new Archbishop.

According to Melbourne's "Neos Kosmos", Archbishop Makarios may soon be the proud resident of a recently-purchased 266m2 luxury apartment at upmarket Millers Point.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Consolidated Trust poured \$6.5 million from its coffers for the 3-bedroom apartment with harbourside views though it has not been confirmed whether the purchase was made with the intent to be

the new residence for the archbishop.

The whole-floor residence is located in an enviable position, wrapped in spectacular dual perspectives east across the harbour overlooking the Sydney Opera House and city icons and west to the Blue Mountains. After a day of preaching about the divine, the Archbishop will be surrounded by the divine architecture of Ercole Palazzetti's landmark The Georgia, which includes signature design principles and refined European construction.

The revelation for the purchase of the expensive apartment on 19 December 2019, originally came from romfea.gr, a religious site in Greece which deals with religious matters only.

**GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC
Corona Virus update on operations of Community Care Services**

In order that we can continue to provide the best of care in relation to our clients and given that Australia is now exposed to a pandemic virus namely the corona virus I thought it best to emphasise the importance of the need for continued vigilance in relation to the sterilisation of hands by washing with soap the need to vigilant should someone exhibit the signs of flu like symptoms and the need to have these persons examined immediately by a doctor or the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Family members should also be vigilant with their own health and the constant need to review your current health status is important given that we are coming into the

Southern Hemisphere flu season. A flu injection will not prevent all but will assist both you and your family members as the World grapples with a virus that it does not have a solution for at present.

The World Health Organisation makes the following recommendations in relation to the Corona Virus and what we should do to keep it in check:

What are good practices to slow the spread of infections?

Ways you can reduce or slow the spread of infections include:

- Get the appropriate vaccine.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Stay home if you are

sick (so you do not spread the illness to other people).

- Use a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your arm, not your hand. Turn away from other people.
- Use single-use tissues. Dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your hands after coughing, sneezing or using tissues.
- If working with children, have them play with hard surface toys that can be easily cleaned.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth (viruses can transfer from your hands and into the body).
- Do not share cups, glasses, dishes or cutlery.

Note that the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention state that adults can shed influenza virus 1 day before symptoms appear and up to approximately 5 to 7 days after onset of illness. It is for this reason, wearing masks selectively, such as when face-to-face with individuals who are showing symptoms, may not help limit the spread of the virus in the community.

For the present it is strongly suggested that you follow the above recommendations and our Community staff will do its utmost to meet its health requirements.

Nick Kyriazopoulos, General Manager

**COMMUNITY NOTICE
Cancellation of Platon Pic-Nic**

With regret, the Greek WEA 'Platon' announces the cancellation of the Annual Picnic planned for Sunday 5 April 2020. The AC accepts the responsibility to exercise a duty of care for its members and supporters and to not expose them unnecessarily to health and safety risks. While undertaking a bus excursion is generally good for our health, the current situation urges us to be cautious. Platon has noted the national and state Government guidelines for containment of the COVID-19 [virus]. We express concern at the limitation of emergency and intensive care hospital beds that will disadvantage the seriously ill elderly. We support GOCSA's advice to the broader community and the safe practices to be followed by every

individual. The Government set public gatherings at a maximum of 500 persons last week. That was reduced to 50 persons on Monday this week. Gatherings will most likely be further reduced to 10 persons [as in the US]. Platon commends to its members, their families and friends to take notice of the methods of containment and to support the public health initiatives. Members who have paid are asked to contact the Stelios Keliouris, Treasurer for a refund. On behalf of Platon, I wish you all good health and a happy Lent - Holy Week.

Yours sincerely
John Lesses
President
Greek Workers Educational Association
"PLATON" of SA

Ethnic communities voice must be maintained

As the nations health and economy is so severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, it is obviously essential that people receive the most authentic medical and government information to enable them to respond and contribute to policy making.

In multicultural Australia although English is the common language, there are millions of Australians who do not have English as their first or main language and badly need this information in their ethnic community language. Although the main stream print and electronic media are flooded with such information in English updated almost daily this is not the case with the ethnic media which are left on their own very limited resources to make it do, the massive job required.

With the emergency stage now declared communication especially live radio should be considered generally as an essential service and assisted to perform exactly this. Yet ethnic broadcasting especially in the commu-

nity sector that provides 3/4 of all ethnic broadcasting in Victoria and indeed Australia, it appears not to be considered as an essential service and faces a shut down at a time that is needed most. Clearly it is not enough to nominate SBS as an essential service and leave others with no live voice.

3ZZZ, the Ethnic Communities radio station in Melbourne broadcasting from modern safe working studios for 30 years in 65 languages with over 500,000 listeners is facing this prospect within days, unless the Victorian Government which repeatedly acknowledge 3zzz invaluable contribution to the State's huge ethnic minorities formally includes 3ZZZ in the essential serviced category, a deserved and urgent expectation.

Of course 3ZZZ and other similar stations (as is 5EBI in Adelaide) will comply with the safe medical working environment guidelines.

**George Zangalis
3ZZZ Honorary
policy consultant
MELBOURNE**

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