

Collaboration for Community Resilience - COVID 19



Collaborating for Community Resilience (COVID-19) Network is being facilitated by SGGPCP to provide the opportunity for a diverse range of cross sector organisations to share their experiences and actions in order to align efforts of support and advocacy.

This network is an expansion and ramp up the existing Rural Adjustment Support Network (RASNet) of cross sector organisations to meet regularly by virtual methods to: **Share information** about impacts, needs and actions they are experiencing, **identify opportunities** to align efforts of support and action, act as a **conduit for information flow to-from Pandemic Inter Agency Committee** in each LGA, determine areas for **collective advocacy** to support our communities and learn from each other in order to adapt and support our community better.

Summary paper: Meeting 1: April 2, 2020.

What impacts are we seeing, what is driving the impact and who is more affected?

Impacts resulting from a changing work environment: Flexibility and agility of agencies to facilitate working from home. Challenges with family dynamics working from home. New OH&S challenges with remote workplaces – increase risk of physical health concerns, mental health concerns resulting from isolation, higher costs, increased house fire risk (as examples). Smaller organisations having to work it out themselves, larger organisations getting more advice and support.

Impacts of social isolation: particularly felt by those most vulnerable (elderly, those with disability, people living with disadvantage, people with limited or no digital access or devices, homeless).

Impacts on mental health: particularly people with existing anxiety and mental health concerns. Ultimately everyone impacted by rapidly changing situation, fear, confusion. There are some positive random acts of kindness and neighbourly connections.

Increase numbers of people seeking help: Strain on some services. Some services aren't well equipped to handle demand yet. Increased in number of new people seeking help – unfamiliar with processes or unable to navigate the system. Difficulty asking for help.

Financial impacts: Job losses or hours cut back. Increased cost of groceries and some utilities. Those not citizens have no access to funds.

Impacts on Education: Access to devices and internet. Concerns that home is not always a safe place for everyone. Concerns about disengagement from education.

Impacts on Volunteering: Decreased availability of volunteers with older community members self isolating.

What actions are we seeing?

Increased use of technology: For connection, service provision, working and learning. Examples include organised events - library book readings, arts and music gigs, exercise classes etc... Informal linking and connecting through Facebook, snapchat, zoom, Microsoft teams, skype, tik tok etc...

Mobilising Community to help each other: Examples: WDHS and Southern Grampians Shire Helping Hands Hotline 1800 943 131, Glenelg Shire hotline 1800 512 461. Delivery of essential packages by SalvoConnect and others.

Mental health Support: Organisation and community links to a number of programs and Projects. Hamilton Medical Group initiative with online Mental health appointments. More Lifeline counsellors.

Information: Stakeholder forums being streamed online in both Southern Grampians and Glenelg Shires. Shire websites.

Work environment: people working more flexibly, maybe an increase in some connection (due to less travel time and more urgency)