



Australian Government



VICTORIAN AGED CARE
RESPONSE CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE

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OPERATIONAL UPDATE – VICTORIAN AGED CARE RESPONSE CENTRE

The Victorian Aged Care Response Centre continues to coordinate and deploy resources across the State in what is an important strategy for protecting senior Australians against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Officer Joe Buffone said cross-sector cooperation had progressed the rapid response to COVID-19 outbreaks in aged care facilities and assisted in strengthening their prevention measures.

- The Response Centre consists of senior representatives from more than a dozen Federal and State agencies, including the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, who are working in partnership to address the unfolding situation in Victoria.
- Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT) have been deployed to a number of aged care facilities. In recent days, AUSMAT have expanded their deployment to 23 members across five teams situated on the ground.
- AUSMAT have now made 28 site visits to aged care facilities, where they have been assessing existing procedures, educating people on the job, implementing infection prevention and control and use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in a real-time effort to help combat COVID-19. They are attending a further six facilities today.
- Eight ADF staff were today deployed to four locations in Victoria to deliver infection control training to aged care staff in facilities that are currently COVID-free. More training sessions will continue into the coming weeks with the support of the ADF.
- A team from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission have been specifically trained and tasked to do unannounced on-the-spot checks on appropriate PPE usage and infection control practices. They are currently in the field and visiting services every day.

“This global pandemic is a one in 100 year event. The challenges our aged care workers are facing are as complex as they are unprecedented,” Mr Buffone said.

“Tomorrow also marks Aged Care Employee Day and we’ve never had more reason to say a huge thank you to all our aged care staff. We deeply value your work.

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About the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/victorian-aged-care-response-centre>