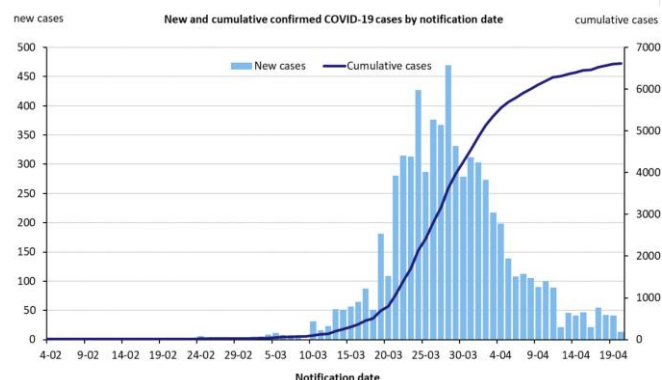


## HIGHLIGHTS

- There has been **less than a one per cent growth** in Australian cases for nine days straight.
- ADRA programs are busy delivering food parcels to existing and newly acquired clients
- A total of 1750 families are being supported in Victoria every week by ADRA.
- ADRA Pine Rivers in QLD has been successful in obtaining a \$10,000 grant
- ADRA activated in Tasmania by Councils: Wynyard and Waratah with volunteers conducting food deliveries
- New volunteers have been recruited (and are continuing to be recruited) in various Conferences from low-risk age groups.

This chart data is at 20 April 2020



<b>6,625</b> Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia	<b>71</b> Deaths in Australia from COVID-19	<b>9</b> Conferences are actively monitoring the situation	<b>23</b> ADRA programs are operating as usual however with stricter hygiene practices	<b>35</b> ADRA programs are open but changed	<b>48</b> ADRA Programs are temporarily closed	<b>6</b> ADRA Programs are closed indefinitely
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## SITUATION OVERVIEW

### Information on the Emergency

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, China and has since spread globally, resulting in the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. The World Health Organisation formally declared the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreaks a pandemic on 11 March. The first recorded case of coronavirus in Australia was on 25 January in Victoria.

### People Affected

As of 21 April, 6,625 cases have been reported in Australia, with the majority of cases being in New South Wales, with 2,969 cases. The latest figures show a drop in the number of new cases, and the data suggests a “flattening of the curve”.

There has been **less than a one per cent growth** in Australian cases for nine days straight.

71 people have died in Australia.

Worldwide infection numbers have increased to more

than 2.45 million confirmed cases and more than 168,500 deaths.

### Humanitarian Situation

No major changes since the last SitRep.

With the lowering infection rate the Government is assessing lifting current restrictions and when that can be done.

### Gaps in Humanitarian Assistance

The same gaps currently remain.

Due to the shutdown of non-essential services such as restaurants and cafes, in addition to restrictions on gatherings, it is expected that more than 2 million Australians face unemployment therefore putting strain on household finances. The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) has called on the Federal Government to support the community services sector through the coronavirus outbreak, which is failing to keep up with the demand, at a time when communities are relying on support from not for profit organisations.

## ADRA'S RESPONSE

## Needs Assessment

Other programmatic needs assessments are yet to be done in the challenging and ever-changing environment.

## ADRA's Response Activities

ADRA is working with the Conferences and local churches to determine the best course of action, particularly for current National operations.

### South Queensland

- No change to projects; all still operating as from the previous SitRep
- ADRA Pine Rivers have been successful in getting a Covid-19 grant worth \$10,000 from Moreton Bay Regional Council
- The assistance needed for international students seems to be increasing, as there is no government assistance available for them
- About to launch an initiative to reach out to those most vulnerable in our community with the ADRA SQC Care Crew
- Currently delivering hand sanitizer to our current ADRA projects to assist with keeping volunteers and clients safe
- Sabbath 25 April, 4pm The Conference ADRA Director will be hosting a special ADRA Interactive Zoom service for ADRA volunteers and the wider church family.

### South NSW

- Activities are operating as per the last SitRep
- ADRA community Centre in Tumut is starting to pack and deliver food parcels. These will be delivered dependent on the need. Currently 24 parcels have been delivered to date. Two groups are being targeted: those impacted by bushfires and those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.
- The ADRA team in Bathurst will also begin their food distribution service on the 28th of April to assist those who are struggling to make ends meet at this time.

### Victoria

- Knox Council has referred 70 indigenous clients from Mullum Mullum agency for assistance. The clients have been split between 3 ADRA sites for support.
- Working with Hope City Mission on Food Relief
- Have working partnerships with NDIS (Geelong) and DDHSS (South-East Vic)

- Yarra Ranges – ADRA Redwood Community Centre food relief serving 70 ppl every week.
- Knox – ADRA Ferntree Gully and ADRA Rowville-Lysterfield serving food relief to about 150 ppl every week
- Maroondah – ADRA Vive Café serving food relief and home deliveries to about 150 ppl every week
- Hume, Melton, Brimbank, and Moreland–Northpoint serving about 1000 people every week.
- Melbourne City – ADRA Casey serving about 100 ppl every week + home deliveries with Burwood Church.
- Dandenong – ADRA Dandenong Filipino serving about 30 people every week + home deliveries to 50 clients per week.
- Casey – ADRA Casey serving about 60 ppl every week at Shawlands Caravan Park and Narre Warren.
- Cardinia – ADRA Cardinia serving about 30 families every week with home delivery.
- Whittlesea – ADRA Plenty Valley serving about 5 families every week with home delivery.
- Geelong – ADRA Geelong serving about 30 people every week + home deliveries.
- Bairnsdale – ADRA Bairnsdale serving about 70 people every week + home deliveries.
- Bendigo – About to commence home deliveries
- Impact: A total of 1750 families every week provided with food relief.

### South Australia

- The South Australia conference just completed its virtual Big Camp where most volunteers were recruited.
- 13 shops/projects have temporarily closed, mostly due to insufficient volunteers as many are in the high-risk category.
- 8 projects/shops remain open and serving the community as best we can,
- All projects complying with current COVID-19 risk reduction requirements.
- Currently in discussions to open one Food Pantry in a new area to meet the need there.
- All Food Pantries are looking to move towards drive through/delivery or non-browsing options.

### Northern Australia

- No new updates other than one more OpShop has closed.
- All shops and projects that are open are complying with current COVID-19 risk reduction

requirements.

- All Food Pantries will be moving to drive through/delivery or non-browsing options.
- The Conference ADRA Director will soon be making a call to all churches that if they would like to get involved, please make contact ASAP.

#### Western Australia

- Activities and operations as per the last SitRep
- North Perth Church has been contacted to look at various options to get involved.
- ADRA is working with Sterling Council (Home at the Park) as they have experience with ADRA.
- Conference ADRA Director is a Member of Cannington Recovery committee

#### North NSW

- Most of the services are still operational – both ADRA and ACS.
- A call has been made to our conference Young Adults to step in and help to reopen some services that had been closed due to older volunteer base.
- Protective gloves for volunteers have been received and will be distributed to all services this week.
- Funding options explored with Monica from ADRA Australia to see if any government funding could be attracted for services.
- Two people have been identified to act as Care-coordinator, to provide moral support to volunteer staff.
- Delivery of the first Zoom presentation on “Emotional Resilience” program was done on Monday, 20 April 2020. This is a weekly recurring program covering 11 topics, intended to emotionally support ADRA & ACS staff and volunteers as they serve the community during a pandemic. ADRA and Church volunteers across the whole of Australia, South Pacific and some in Asia had logged in.

#### Greater Sydney Conference

- Three food pantries and online casework/counselling is continuing unchanged since the last SitRep.
- The need for food is still high but urgent demand has dropped
- A grant application is currently in progress to combat isolation of the elderly.
- There are some volunteer constraints of which a solution is being explored.

- May be able to reactivate English classes if NSW restrictions are reduced.

#### Tasmania

- ADRA activated in Tasmania by Councils: Wynyard and Waratah with volunteers conducting food deliveries. (NW region).

#### Funding Opportunities

- Grants available from State government and various State departments. The ADRA team is exploring each of these funding opportunities and ADRA's eligibility to apply.
  - Grant in progress in GSC to help ease elderly isolation
- ADRA International
  - An initial funding grant of USD25,000, plus \$5,000 from ADRA Australia to make a total of \$30,000, has been approved and received from ADRA International to support the purchase of hand sanitiser and other PPE materials.
- ADRA Australia has approved \$109,898 for the next three months for the national COVID-19 response. This is to support the proposals sent in from the Conferences for the three months to 30 June.

## RESPONSE COORDINATION

- ADRA ERT is meeting via Zoom conference call twice a week
- Conference ADRA Directors are meeting twice weekly through Zoom. They are working closely with their local networks in each State as each State has different regulations being applied.
- In NNSW, David Haupt is a member of the Interfaith Committee and has been attending as he is able.
- In Western Australia, Suzanna Cuplovic is a part of the State Emergency Management Committee and has recently been added to the Cannington Council Recovery Committee.
- In Victoria, Rebecca Auriat is a member of Council Recovery Committees in Cardinia, Hume, Yarra Ranges and Knox Councils.

## CONSTRAINTS

### Security Constraints

Security situation is contained and manageable. A general Safety and Security Guideline is currently being developed to help guide ADRA staff and projects in Australia.

### Other Constraints

Limited movements due to the recommendation to self-isolate is in place.

ADRA advice precludes older volunteers and those with pre-existing conditions due to risk, therefore limiting the available volunteer force.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Media

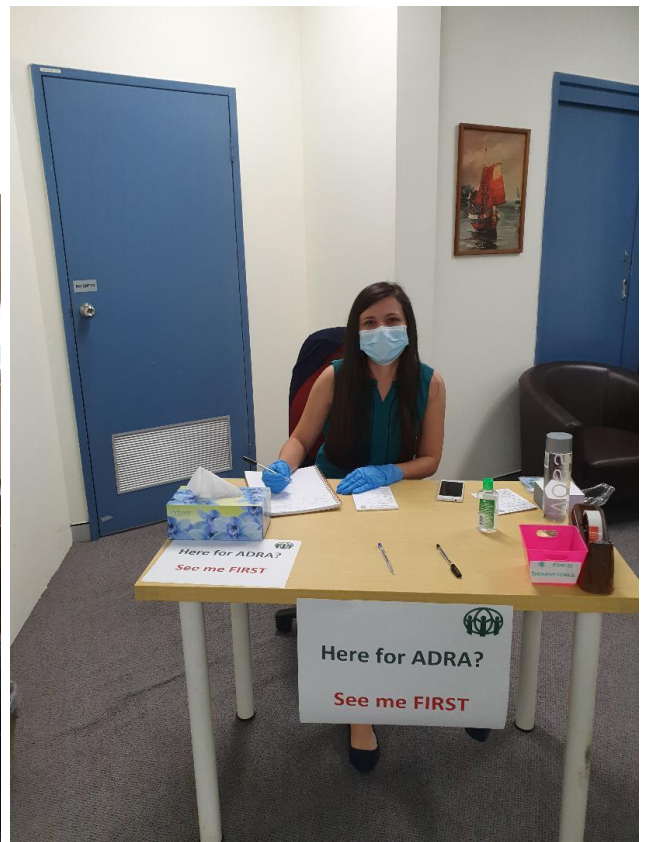
Please visit 'ADRA Australia's Facebook page' <https://www.facebook.com/ADRAAustralia/> and also our Latest News tab on the website <https://www.adra.org.au/latest-news/> as this consolidates all of the activities in the various states.

Some photos and an article to be included in the upcoming 'ADRA News' is below.

### The next SitRep will be circulated on:

Tuesday 5 May 2020

*Below: Volunteers packing meals in Victoria  
Right: Grace at the new reception at ADRA Blacktown*



### Sources of data:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-cases-in-australia-by-state-and-source-of-transmission>  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-21/coronavirus-australia-live-news-national-cabinet-virgin-airlines/12166868>

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## Responding to Coronavirus



*Lakeside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pakenham has been transformed into an Emergency Relief Centre*

“For the first time that I can remember, we are hearing a word spoken in the chambers and hallways of our elected officials. That word is ‘Adventist’,” says John Smilek, community liaison and coordinator for ADRA Victoria. “They are witnessing what we stand for – our values. They are witnessing what’s being achieved for their constituents and the local communities. As a result, they have recently passed laws so that this work can continue unhindered.”

As much of the nation shuts down due to coronavirus restrictions, your support has ensured ADRA programs around Australia can continue finding innovative ways to remain open to deliver essential services to the most vulnerable in the community. “As the situation develops, we will continue to find ways to fulfil our mission of service,” says Paul Rubessa, ADRA Australia CEO.

Due to increasing unemployment, the demand for emergency food services across the country has increased. But while the need for physical goods is at the forefront of people’s minds, ADRA is also seeing an increase in the need for mental health services.

The ADRA Blacktown Centre offers counselling as its main service. Clients can still access support by meeting with counsellors over the phone or via Zoom.

“It is great that we are still offering this service,” says Grace Copaceanu, ADRA Blacktown’s ADRA Blacktown’s Centre Supervisor. “As we’ve heard on the news and everywhere, mental health issues are increasing. There is a lot of anxiety and depression that’s hitting people because of the uncertainty and the fear.”

According to Grace, isolation is also causing increased feelings of loneliness. “Isolation is difficult,” she says. “A lot of our clients are reporting that their counsellor is the only person that they’re talking to every week. So, we’re glad that we’re still able to maintain that human connection. And not just any human connection, but someone who’s willing to listen to you, train you along the way and help you to cope with it.”

On April 20, ADRA Australia launched a nation-wide Emotional Resilience workshop via Zoom. Hosted by Pastor David Haupt, the National Director for the Depression and Recovery Training Program and the ADRA Director for the North NSW Conference, the sessions will build emotional strength in challenging times.

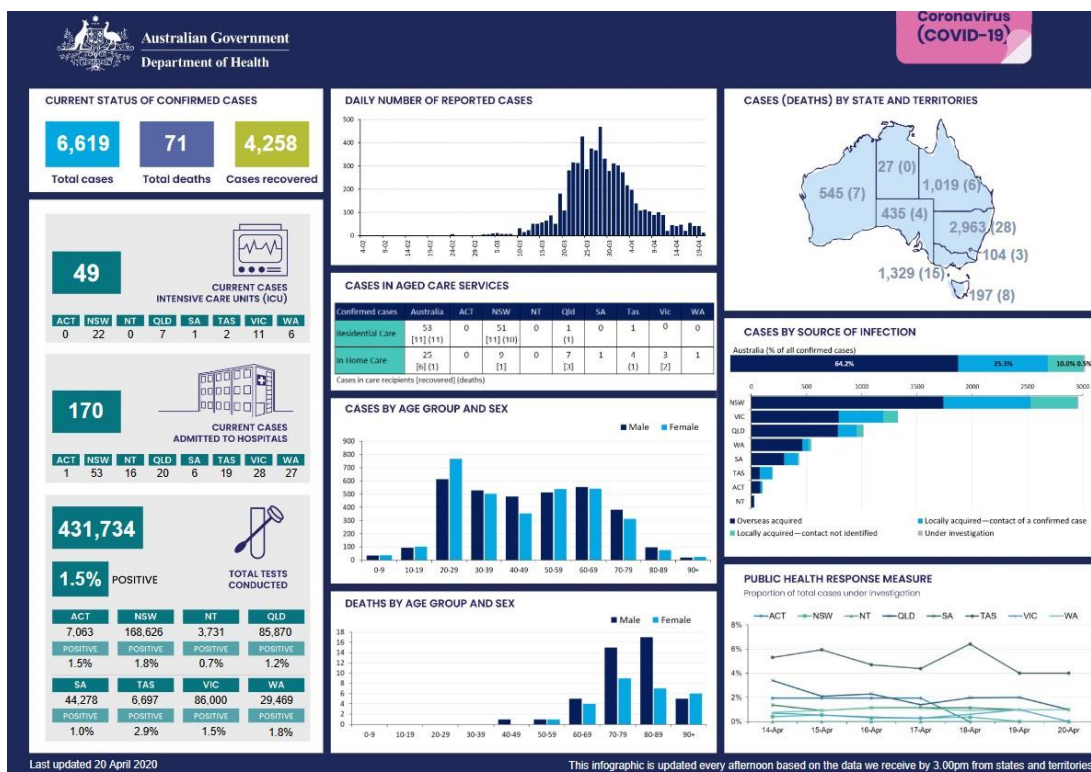
You continue to enable ADRA to respond to the coronavirus challenge not only in Australia, but also overseas.

In Cambodia, ADRA is supplying personal protective equipment and education materials so that community members will make the right choices in their personal hygiene, sanitation and social distancing behaviours to prevent, control and respond to the coronavirus.

In Nepal, ADRA is supplying vital medical equipment, including ventilators and N95 masks, to Koshi Hospital in Biratnagar.

“The support includes 70 types of medical equipment required to respond COVID-19, as well as to perform surgical treatment to other patients,” said Sangita Mishra, medical superintendent of the hospital when receiving the equipment.

## Coronavirus at a glance



[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-infographic\\_17.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-infographic_17.pdf)