



Stakeholder update: Staying safe from COVID-19

Update 12 – 19 January 2021

Context

This is the MCA's first 2021 update on actions by the Australian minerals industry to work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, governments and communities to keep Indigenous workers, families and communities safe from COVID-19.

Maintaining vigilance during 2021

MCA to continue to support industry-wide approach

While the number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases remains low in Australia, the minerals industry remains vigilant to minimise the health, social and economic risks associated with the pandemic.

The MCA continues to lead national collaboration and information sharing to keep people and communities safe and support jobs and local and national economies.

Ongoing MCA actions include:

- Convening fortnightly national working group meetings to discuss critical issues and share information. Supporting community-led responses to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities safe from COVID-19 and support local social and economic activities remains a priority
- Consulting with its member companies on the Australian COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, including government recommendations and workforce implications.
 - The MCA is also engaging with Aboriginal health sector representatives to understand particular considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and communities.
- Developing industry guidance and tools in consultation with the Aboriginal health sector, government agencies and members as appropriate to assist companies to support community-led responses.
 - The MCA will also continue to encourage companies to engage directly with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations to support COVID-19 responses.

Refreshed MCA COVID-19 Communities webpage and resource

In December, the MCA refreshed its [COVID-19 Communities webpage](#) to make it easier for member companies, community organisations and the public to access industry tools, resources and updates.

It now includes direct links to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation COVID-19 webpage and Australian Government advice.

The *Summer 2020-21 Planning Checklist* was also updated based on feedback from the National Indigenous Australians Agency in December.