



Northern Territory of Australia

*Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*

## **COVID-19 Directions (No. 131) 2021: Directions for Territory border restrictions**

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, Chief Health Officer, under section 52 of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* (the **Act**), consider it necessary, appropriate or desirable to take action to alleviate the public health emergency in the Territory, declared by instrument entitled "Declaration of Public Health Emergency", dated 18 March 2020 (the **public health emergency declaration**), by making the following directions:

### **Part 1 Preliminary matters**

- 1 These Directions take effect at 12:01 am on 20 December 2021 and remain in force while the public health emergency declaration is in force.

*Note for direction 1*

*These Directions will remain in force during any extensions of the duration of that declaration, which may be made under section 50(2) of the Act.*

- 2 The following Directions are revoked:
  - (a) COVID-19 Directions (No. 38) 2021;  
COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 2021;
  - (b) COVID-19 Directions (No. 99) 2021;
  - (c) COVID-19 Directions (No. 110) 2021;
  - (d) COVID-19 Directions (No. 114) 2021.

- 3 In these Directions:

**aged care facility**, see COVID-19 Directions (No. 75) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

**aircrew member** includes a person who arrives in the Territory by aircraft in order to work as an aircrew member on an aircraft flying from the Territory.

**approved** means approved by the Chief Health Officer.

**child** means a person who is under 18 years of age.

**essential worker**, means a person who is declared in the Schedule to be an essential worker for the purposes of these Directions.

**exclusion zone** means a specified area of the Territory:

- (a) determined by the Chief Health Officer from time to time; and
- (b) published on the website [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](http://coronavirus.nt.gov.au).

**health practitioner** means:

- (a) a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in a health profession (other than as a student); or
- (b) an audiologist or a speech pathologist.

**high risk place** means a place specified in direction 6.

**quarantine period** means the period for which a person must be in quarantine, calculated in accordance with direction 4.

**social distancing measures** means the measures required under direction 46.

**suitable place**, see direction 5

**travel plan** means a written plan for a person entering the Territory in which the person:

- (a) gives details of the route the person intends to travel in accordance with direction 38; and
- (b) identifies any planned fuel stops during the travel; and
- (c) confirms that the person has sufficient food and water to last the duration of the travel.

*Note for definition **travel plan***

A travel plan is required for persons travelling to a place for quarantine.

**vaccinated or exempt**, in relation to a person, means the person:

- (a) has received at least 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Commonwealth Department of Health; or
- (b) is under the age of 16 years; or
- (c) has a certificate issued by the Commonwealth that certifies that the person has a permanent or temporary contraindication to all approved COVID-19 vaccines.

*Note for definition **vaccinated or exempt***

*For vaccines see: [International COVID-19 vaccines recognised by Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#)*

- 4 Subject to direction 37, a quarantine period is calculated starting when the person enters the Territory and ending at 12:00 noon on the 14th day after the last day the person enters the Territory.

*Example for direction 4*

*A person who enters the Territory on 4 January 2022 at 11 pm must remain in quarantine until 12 noon on 18 January 2022.*

*Notes for direction 4*

- 1 *A person who leaves the Territory before the end of a quarantine period and then re-enters the Territory starts a new quarantine period. The previous time in quarantine is not carried over.*
- 2 *Under direction 41, a person may be required to quarantine for an additional 7 days after the quarantine period.*

- 5 A **suitable place** for quarantine for a person is a place that:

- (a) is a residence or a room, apartment or unit in commercial visitor accommodation; and
- (b) is capable of accommodating the person in quarantine for the person's quarantine period; and
- (c) has a particular attribute or has access to a particular facility determined by me.

- 6 The each of the following is a **high risk place**:

- (a) a hospital;
- (b) a residential facility within the meaning of section 2 of the *Disability Services Act 1993*;

- (c) a custodial correctional facility within the meaning of section 11 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*;
- (d) a detention centre within the meaning of section 5 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005*;
- (e) an aged care facility;
- (f) an Aboriginal Town Camp that is not located on Aboriginal land within the meaning of section 3(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).

7 If these Directions are inconsistent with an advice, order or notice under the *Notifiable Diseases Act 1981*, the advice, order or notice prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

*Example for direction 7*

*A person may be ordered under the Notifiable Diseases Act 1981 to isolate for longer than the quarantine period or to undertake a specific course of medical treatment.*

8 To avoid doubt, my COVID-19 Directions (No. 7) 2020, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions, apply to any person who is notified by an authorised officer or health practitioner that the person is infected with COVID-19.

*Example for direction 8*

*A person who tests positive for COVID-19 after a test specified in direction 22(c) or 23.*

9 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not limit a right under section 71(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).

## **Part 2      Restricted entry**

### **Division 1      Persons allowed entry**

10 A person must not enter the Territory unless the person:

- (a) is a resident of the Territory; or
- (b) is vaccinated or exempt; or
- (c) applies for and is given an exemption under Division 2; or
- (d) is an aircrew member; or
- (e) arrives on a flight facilitated by the Commonwealth Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade and is entering quarantine under Part 5;

(f) is entering a hospital in an emergency or for another urgent medical reason.

11 A person prohibited from entry under direction 10 who arrives in the Territory must leave the Territory as soon as possible.

12 A crew member of a commercial vessel is subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 3) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

13 A freight worker who provides services for the transport or freight of goods and related logistics into, within or out of the Territory, is subject to my COVID-19 Directions (No. 56) 2021, or any subsequent Directions that replace and substantially correspond to those Directions.

## **Division 2 Applications for entry**

14 The following persons may apply for an exemption to enter the Territory:

(a) a person who is entering the Territory to begin residence in the Territory;

(b) a person escaping domestic violence;

(c) a person with diplomatic or consular duties in the Territory;

(d) active Australian military personnel required to assist the Territory or required to enter the Territory while performing their official duties;

(e) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament;

(f) a specialist coming to the Territory to provide services for the continuity of industry or business and the maintenance of competitive operations if:

(i) the specialist's skills are difficult to obtain in the Territory; and

(ii) the service must be provided without delay; and

(iii) the specialist must be physically present in the Territory to provide the service;

(g) a person coming to the Territory for necessary maintenance or repair of power, water, communications or other infrastructure critical to the Territory;

- (h) a law enforcement officer or emergency service worker coming to the Territory to perform official duties;
- (i) a person coming to the Territory for the administration of justice in the Territory;
- (j) an agricultural industry worker, other than an abattoir or meat packing worker, coming to the Territory to provide urgent services that are critical to ensure continuity of the agricultural industry;
- (k) a paramedic, an officer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. or a member of the crew of Careflight, the Royal Flying Doctor Service or other medical retrieval service who is providing medical transport to a person or returning to the Territory as soon as was practicable after providing medical transport to a person;
- (l) a person who needs to enter the Territory for a compassionate purpose.

15 An application from a person specified in direction 14(f), (g), (i) or (j) must be supported by:

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency or Government owned corporation responsible for the subject matter of the request; or
- (b) the Secretary (or equivalent) of a Department or Agency of the Commonwealth responsible for the subject matter of the request; or
- (c) the delegate of the Chief Executive Officer or the Secretary (or equivalent).

*Example for direction 15*

*The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade may request an exemption for a veterinarian to come to the Territory to provide services to the agricultural sector.*

16 An application from a person specified in direction 14(h) must be supported by:

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency or Government owned corporation responsible for the subject matter of the request; or
- (b) the Commissioner of Police; or
- (c) the Secretary (or equivalent) of a Department or Agency of the Commonwealth responsible for the subject matter of the request; or

(d) the delegate of the Chief Executive Officer, the Commissioner of Police or the Secretary (or equivalent).

17 An exemption may, on application, be granted to a person specified in direction 14 by me, my delegate or an authorised officer.

*Note for direction 17*

*An exemption will not be granted to any worker to whom my COVID-19 Directions (No. 55) 2021 apply and who has not had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.*

18 A person granted an exemption under direction 17 is still subject to these Directions.

### **Division 3          Exception for transit through airport**

19 Despite direction 10, a person may transit through the Territory if the person:

(a) arrives by aircraft and either:

(i) stays in the airport and then departs the Territory by aircraft; or

(i) travels directly from the airport to a hotel within an approved distance from the airport, stays in the person's hotel room (except in an emergency) then returns to the airport and departs the Territory by aircraft; and

(b) wears a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45 while in transit; and

(c) practises regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser while in transit; and

(c) practises social distancing measures while in transit.

*Examples for direction 19*

1 *A person who flies into Darwin airport, remains at the airport during a 6 hour stopover and then departs the airport on an aircraft.*

2 *A person who flies into Darwin airport, takes a taxi from the airport to a hotel that is 5 km away from the airport, checks in, orders room service and remains in the hotel room overnight, checks out the following day, travels directly back to the airport and takes a flight out of the Territory.*

## **Part 3      Screening and testing**

### **Division 1      Screening on arrival**

- 20      Subject to direction 21, before entering the Territory a person must, in an approved electronic manner, declare the following:
- (a)    the person's contact details;
  - (b)    whether the person is vaccinated or exempt;
  - (c)    whether the person was tested for COVID-19 infection or booked to be tested within 3 days prior to entry and, if so, the nature of the test and any result;
  - (d)    details of where the person intends to stay while in the Territory;
  - (e)    a travel plan if required under direction 38.
- 21      For a child entering the Territory, a parent or guardian of the child must make the declaration under direction 20 in relation to the child to the best of the parent or guardian's knowledge.
- 22      At the place of entry, the person must show the following to an authorised officer or another approved person:
- (a)    a copy of the declaration referred to in direction 20;
  - (b)    any evidence of the person being vaccinated or exempt;
  - (c)    any evidence of the person having been tested for COVID-19 infection within 3 days hours prior to entry, including the nature of the test and the result;
  - (d)    a travel plan if required under direction 38.

### **Division 2      Testing for infection**

- 23      A person who enters the Territory must submit to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure as follows:
- (a)    a PCR test within 3 days after entry;
  - (b)    a PCR test on the 6th day after entry.

*Note for direction 23*

*A PCR test is a polymerase chain reaction test that uses a swab to collect a sample for testing in a laboratory.*

- 24 All COVID-19 testing procedures conducted in the Territory are conducted by one of the following:
- (a) an authorised officer;
  - (b) a health practitioner;
  - (c) another approved person.
- 25 A person who is unable to submit to a PCR COVID-19 testing procedure may be approved by me, my delegate or an authorised officer to self-administer a rapid antigen test in accordance with conditions specified in the approval.
- 26 Despite direction 23, person must submit to a different schedule for COVID-19 testing, or a different type of approved COVID-19 testing procedure, if required by me, my delegate or an authorised officer.
- 27 In addition to the testing required under direction 23, for the 7-day period after entering the Territory a person must regularly check for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, coughing, sore throat, muscular pains, shortness of breath, unexpected tiredness, loss of and altered sense of taste and loss of sense of smell.
- 28 In addition to the testing required under direction 23, for the 7-day period after entering the Territory:
- (a) a person entering an exclusion zone, other than a person who resides there, must submit to a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure once each day while in the exclusion zone; and
  - (b) a person entering a high risk place, other than a person who resides there, must submit to a rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure before entering the place for the first time each day.
- 29 If, after entering the Territory, a person displays a symptom referred to in direction 27, the person:
- (a) must contact the COVID-19 Hotline or a medical practitioner to determine whether to be tested or assessed for COVID-19 infection; and

- (b) must remain quarantined in a suitable place until a negative result is obtained using an approved COVID-19 testing procedure.

*Note for direction 29*

*The COVID-19 Hotline number is 1800 490 484.*

## **Part 4 Exclusion zones and high risk places**

### **Division 1 Entry to exclusion zone restricted**

30 For the 14-day period after entering the Territory, a person must not travel to or enter an exclusion zone unless:

- (a) the person resides in that exclusion zone and the person:
  - (i) wears a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45; and
  - (ii) practises regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser while in the exclusion zone; and
  - (iii) practises social distancing measures while in the exclusion zone; or
- (b) the person is an essential worker entering the exclusion zone for the purposes of work and the worker:
  - (i) wears a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45; and
  - (ii) practises regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser while in the exclusion zone; and
  - (iii) practises social distancing measures while in the exclusion zone; and
  - (iv) submits to the rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure required under direction 28(a).

*Examples for direction 30*

- 1 *Residents returning home to their community in an exclusion zone after travelling interstate.*
- 2 *A teacher (with family) returning to work in their community in an exclusion zone after taking leave interstate.*
- 3 *A health practitioner going to visiting a clinic in an exclusion zone.*

31 Despite direction 30, a person may transit through an exclusion zone if:

- (a) the person travels on a major thoroughfare that transits through the exclusion zone; and

- (b) the person is only stopping for food, fuel, medical necessity or accommodation and does not enter premises unrelated to those purposes; and
- (c) the person wears a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45; and
- (d) the person practises regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser while in the exclusion zone; and
- (e) the person practises social distancing measures while in the exclusion zone.

*Note for direction 31*

*When entering a venue a person must use the Territory Check In application or give the person's contact information to a person in authority at the venue. See COVID-19 Directions (No. 35) 2021.*

## **Division 2 High risk places**

32 For the 7-day period after entering the Territory, a person entering a high risk place must:

- (a) submit to the rapid antigen COVID-19 testing procedure required under direction 28(b); and
- (b) wear a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45; and
- (c) practise regular hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser; and
- (d) practise social distancing measures.

*Examples for direction 32*

- 1 *A resident returning home to their aged care facility after travelling interstate.*
- 2 *A worker returning to work in a custodial correctional facility.*

## **Part 5 Quarantine measures**

### **Division 1 Persons who are required to quarantine**

33 After entering the Territory, each of the following persons must quarantine in accordance with this Part:

- (a) a resident of the Territory who is not vaccinated or exempt;

- (b) a person who applies for and is given an exemption under Part 2, Division 2;
- (c) a person entering the Territory who refuses to make a declaration in accordance with direction 20;
- (d) a person entering the Territory who is unable to produce sufficient evidence of a COVID-19 test result under direction 22(c);
- (e) a child entering the Territory in relation to whom a declaration in accordance with direction 21 is not made;
- (f) a person who arrives on a flight facilitated by the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

34 Despite direction 33, a child under 16 years of age is not required to quarantine.

## **Division 2      Quarantine requirements**

35 Any person who is required to quarantine under Division 1 must quarantine:

- (a) for the 14-day quarantine period; and
- (b) in a place for quarantine specified by me and as directed by an authorised officer .

36 An unaccompanied child who is required to quarantine must quarantine where a parent or responsible adult will also remain quarantined for the same period as the child.

*Note for direction 36*

*This would only apply to children aged 16 and 17 years of age who are unvaccinated.*

37 Despite direction 35, a person entering the Territory who is vaccinated or exempt but unable to produce sufficient evidence of a COVID-19 test result as declared under direction 22(c):

- (a) must remain quarantined in a suitable place until a negative result is obtained using an approved COVID-19 testing procedure; and
- (b) must not leave the place except:
  - (i) for urgent medical purposes, including obtaining medical supplies, receiving medical care and being tested or assessed for infection

- with COVID-19; or
  - (ii) in an emergency; or
  - (iii) for a compassionate purpose in accordance with a temporary exemption given by me; and
- (c) must not permit any other person to enter the place unless the other person:
- (i) usually resides at the place and is vaccinated or exempt; or
  - (ii) is being quarantined at the same time; or
  - (iii) is entering for medical purposes, including delivering medical supplies, providing medical care and testing or assessing for infection with COVID-19; or
  - (iv) is entering because of an emergency or another urgent reason.

*Example for direction 37(b)(iii)*

*A person wishes to attend the funeral of a relative or close friend.*

*Note for direction 37*

*A person quarantining in a suitable place may be subject to further specific instructions from an authorised officer regarding the person's behaviour or the manner in which the person is to be quarantined. See section 53 of the Act.*

- 38 If a person must travel for a period longer than 3 hours to reach a place for quarantine, the person must give a travel plan:
- (a) with the declaration under direction 20; or
  - (b) to an authorised officer at the place of entry under direction 22.
- 39 When travelling to a place for quarantine after entry, a person must:
- (a) travel by the most direct route practicable; and
  - (b) complete the travel as quickly as practicable, and no later than 48 hours after entry; and
  - (c) if the person was required to give a travel plan – not deviate from the route identified in the travel plan, except in an emergency; and
  - (d) wear a face mask in accordance with directions 44 and 45; and
  - (e) not stop except for:

- (i) food, fuel, or accommodation at the planned stops in the person's travel plan; or
  - (ii) a rest break from driving; or
  - (iii) a medical necessity; and
- (f) practise social distancing measures while travelling.
- 40 If a person stops for overnight accommodation under direction 39(e)(i), the person must remain quarantined in the accommodation from the time the person checks in to the accommodation until the time the person departs from the accommodation.

### **Division 3 Additional quarantine**

- 41 If a person in quarantine refuses to submit to an approved COVID-19 testing procedure, the person must remain quarantined for an additional 7 days starting from the end of the quarantine period.

*Example for direction 41*

*If a person whose quarantine period ends on 12 noon on 10 January 2022 refuses to submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure on 8 January 2022, the person is required to remain quarantined until 12 noon on 17 January 2022.*

- 42 If a person not in quarantine refuses to submit to a COVID-19 testing procedure, the person must quarantine in accordance with Division 2 for 14 days beginning immediately after the refusal occurs.
- 43 If a person is required to quarantine under direction 41 or 42, all directions that were applicable to the person during the quarantine period, other than direction 41, continue to apply to the person during the 7-day or 14-day period, as the case may be.

### **Part 6 Face masks and social distancing measures**

- 44 A person required to wear a face mask by these Directions must wear a face mask securely over the person's nose and mouth while in an exclusion zone, high risk place or in transit.
- 45 A person is not required to wear a mask if the person:
- (a) is at the premises where the person resides; or

- (b) is in a private vehicle, that is not being used for commercial purposes, or is alone in a commercial vehicle; or
- (c) is a child:
  - (i) under the age of 12 years; or
  - (ii) attending primary school, while at school; or
- (d) has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask unsuitable; or
- (e) is communicating with another person who is hearing impaired and visibility of the mouth is essential; or
- (f) is asked to remove the face mask to ascertain their identity; or
- (g) is requested by a health practitioner to remove the face mask in order for the health practitioner to administer treatment to the person; or
- (h) must remove the face mask in an emergency; or
- (i) is a teacher, educator or child care worker in a school or child care facility who removes it for the purposes of teaching or child care activities; or
- (j) is engaged in vigorous exercise or is swimming; or
- (k) is seated and eating or drinking.

46 A person who must practise **social distancing measures** under these Directions must:

- (a) take all reasonable steps to sleep in a room or other enclosed space separate from any other person, except another person who is also subject to social distancing measures; and
- (b) take all reasonable measures to stay at least 1.5 m away from other people, subject an essential worker's requirements at work; and
- (c) submit to a test or assessment for infection with COVID-19 if required by me, my delegate or an authorised officer.

## Part 7 Transitional matters

47 Any person who is in quarantine in a suitable place under COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 2021 when these Directions take effect:

- (a) is no longer required to remain in quarantine; and
- (b) is subject to these Directions for the remainder of the 14-day period after the person entered the Territory.

*Notes for direction 47*

- 1 *This does not release persons in a quarantine facility.*
- 2 *A person released from quarantine for 4 days would be subject to the travel restrictions to exclusion zones and to the applicable testing requirements.*

48 Any person who is in quarantine in a place specified by me under COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 2021 when these Directions take effect is required to remain in quarantine for the remainder of their quarantine period if the person would be subject to quarantine under Part 5.

*Example for direction 48*

*An unvaccinated person who arrived from a red zone on 10 December 2021, and is in quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience, may be released from quarantine on 24 December 2021.*

*Note for direction 48*

*Persons released from quarantine under this direction are subject to the testing requirements, generally requiring testing within 3 days after entry and on the 6th day (if applicable), with more frequent testing if the person enters an exclusion zone or high risk place.*

49 Any person who is in quarantine in a place specified by me under COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 2021 when these Directions take effect is no longer required to remain in quarantine as of 7:30 am on 20 December 2021 if the person would not be subject to quarantine under Part 5.

*Example for direction 49*

*A vaccinated person who arrived from a red zone on 18 December 2021, and entered quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience, may be released after 7:30 am on 20 December 2021.*

*Note for direction 49*

*Persons released from quarantine under this direction are subject to testing requirements if the person enters exclusion zones or high risk places.*

50 An exemption granted under my COVID-19 Directions (No. 96) 2021 that was not used to enter the Territory before those Directions were revoked is taken to be an exemption granted under direction 17 of these Directions.

*Notes for these Directions*

- 1 *Section 56 of the Act provides for an offence for failing to comply with a direction given by me under section 52(3) of the Act.*
- 2 *The maximum penalty for this offence is 400 penalty units.*
- 3 *A person is not guilty of this offence if the person has a reasonable excuse.*
- 4 *An infringement notice may be given for failing to comply with these Directions with a fine equal to 32 penalty units for an individual and 160 penalty units for a body corporate.*



Digitally signed by Dr Hugh Heggie  
DN: cn=Dr Hugh Heggie, o=NTG  
Health, ou=Public Health & Clinical  
Excellence,  
email=Hugh.Heggie@nt.gov.au,  
c=AU  
Date: 2021.12.18 20:04:43 +09'30'

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Chief Health Officer

Dated

## **Schedule                    Essential workers**

- 1     An employee or contractor engaged by any of the following businesses or services is an essential worker for the purposes of these Directions:
- (a) a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, greengrocer or fishmonger;
  - (b) a food outlet with a fixed premises or vehicles providing takeaway food services or food for distribution by food delivery services;
  - (c) a liquor retailer, but only for the purposes of selling takeaway liquor that is not consumed on the premises;
  - (d) a financial institution;
  - (e) consular and diplomatic services;
  - (f) a Court or a Tribunal;
  - (g) the Territory or local government services which are deemed essential by the relevant Agency Chief Executive Officer or CEO of a council;
  - (h) a post office;
  - (i) a newsagency;
  - (j) a pharmacy;
  - (k) a petrol station;
  - (l) a hardware store for click and collect purchases;
  - (m) vehicle and mechanical repair services, including the provision of transport inspection services and roadside assist services;
  - (n) a pet store for click and collect purchases;
  - (o) a veterinary clinic;
  - (p) care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, displacement, domestic violence, illness or a chronic health condition;
  - (q) child protection services;
  - (r) a childcare, early learning centre, kindergarten, preschool or family day care provider for the children of essential workers;

- (s) a primary, secondary or boarding school;
- (t) locksmith services, only to the extent required in an emergency;
- (u) labour hire in relation to a business, service or undertaking mentioned in this Schedule;
- (v) commercial cleaners.

2 An employee or contractor engaged by any of the following businesses or services is an essential worker for the purposes of these Directions:

- (a) a funerary or mortuary service or related activities;
- (b) the following emergency services, including both volunteers and paid workers in:
  - (i) ambulance and paramedical services;
  - (ii) firefighting services;
  - (iii) air ambulance and medical retrieval services, including Royal Flying Doctor Service and CareFlight;
  - (iv) police services, protective service officers and police custody officers;
  - (v) the Northern Territory Emergency Service as defined in section 8 of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*;
  - (vi) military and defence services;
  - (vii) state security or national security services;
- (c) essential infrastructure and services required to maintain or protect human health, safety and wellbeing, including the construction, maintenance and repair of such infrastructure;
- (d) critical repairs to any premises where required for emergency or safety;
- (e) faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship;
- (f) a person who is critical to, and involved in the Northern Territory's COVID-19 response, including in quarantine, emergency operations centres and vaccination services;
- (g) immunisation and vaccination providers including pharmacy immunisers

- and Aboriginal healthcare workers;
- (h) roadside assistance services;
  - (i) a member of Parliament or anyone required to ensure the functioning of the Legislative Assembly or Commonwealth Parliament;
  - (j) domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services, including collection, treatment, transfer and disposal services;
  - (ja) the following essential services:
    - (i) electricity services;
    - (ii) operation of energy systems;
    - (iii) gas services;
    - (iv) water supply, sewerage and drainage services;
    - (v) liquid fuels and refinery services;
  - (k) services to support ongoing provision and regulation of electricity, gas, water, sewerage and waste and recycling services and their maintenance, including emergency electrical and plumbing repairs to ensure the safety of, or prevent damage to a structure or site;
  - (l) Commonwealth agency services including Australian Border Force, Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence agency services and Services Australia;
  - (m) services related to the administration of justice, including prison transfers;
  - (n) essential legal services that are not able to be provided electronically, including urgent legal matters such as executing a will in-person;
  - (o) journalism and media services;
  - (p) a factory or facility that is not able to be shut down without causing damage or loss to plant and equipment, but only those operations that are necessary in order to prevent that damage or loss;
  - (q) mining services including coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying petroleum production;
  - (r) building and construction services only to the extent required in an

emergency or to ensure the safety of, or prevent damage to, a structure or site;

- (s) administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home, including payroll and IT services;
- (t) organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises, including pest control and snake removal services;
- (u) public transport, including taxis and other commercial passenger vehicles such as minibuses and ridesharing, rental scooters and other public passenger services, and including transit officers and interchange security officers;
- (v) air transport, including the operation of airports;
- (w) port operations;
- (x) freight services, including postal and courier services;
- (y) a transport, freight or logistics driver;
- (z) heavy vehicle compliance activities;
- (aa) a blood bank or other bank services for the collection, storage and provision of donated biological material;
- (bb) care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services;
- (cc) truck stops and roadhouses, but only for the provision of seated dining or shower facilities to persons who are transport, freight or logistics drivers;
- (dd) production and distribution of:
  - (i) food and groceries for sale by a supermarket, butcher, greengrocer or fishmonger (including for sale by operators of such premises at an indoor or outdoor market);
  - (ii) liquor for sale at a bottle shop;
  - (iii) medical and pharmaceutical products;

- (iv) animal food and care products;
- (ee) commercial operations that supply goods or services necessary:
  - (i) for the implementation of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19;
  - (ii) to support any business activity that may be carried out in accordance with these Directions;
  - (iii) to support the transportation of goods and services in and out of the Northern Territory, including live export activities and support staff or services (such as veterinarians, inspectors);
- (ff) the maintenance of other essential research activities for:
  - (i) management and care of critical living resources, and the equipment and materials they depend on (for example feeding, husbandry, hydrating, routine care and checks of animals, plants, microbes and cell lines in controlled environment);
  - (ii) the storage and management of existing samples and data research infrastructure that are temperature and environment sensitive (for example, biobank);
  - (iii) long-term experiments or studies that would otherwise be prohibitive to restart (e.g. commenced clinical trials);
  - (iv) research addressing the impact of COVID-19 and research in support of the hospital and broader health system;
- (gg) the conduct of essential adult education services related to the following occupations and activities for:
  - (i) training and assessment for infection control, high-risk work licenses and high-risk work credentials and construction induction (white card), that ensure workplace and public safety in permitted work premises or for permitted workers;
  - (ii) study for final year pre-service early childhood and school teachers (including placements);
  - (iii) final-year higher education students (for example, in courses regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency) who do not

- have alternative options to complete their study by end of year;
- (iv) first aid training where required for COVID-19 response;
- (v) study for health care workers (including clinical placements);
- (vi) apprentices training with a worker or service mentioned in this Schedule;
- (vii) clinical health and biomedical science (if required to be on site for the maintenance of essential research activities);
- (viii) aged and disability care (including clinical placements);
- (ix) mandatory assessments for Northern Territory Certificate of Education students;
- (x) police academy;
- (xi) defence and national security agencies;
- (hh) primary industries only to the extent necessary to ensure animal rescue, adequate supply of food to, and care of, animals and maintenance of crops;
- (ii) a hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to the extent that they provide accommodation services, including on a temporary basis for work purposes;
- (jj) services related to property settlement or commencement or end of lease activities, including furniture removalists;
- (kk) forestry activities for the purposes of or relating to:
  - (i) production of building supplies for construction;
  - (ii) production of other goods required for other permitted activities (for example, paper, packaging, caskets and coffins);
- (ll) all manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting the defence or security industry;
- (mm) on site operations of ancillary and support businesses necessary for the operations of a business, service or undertaking mentioned in this Schedule, or for a closed business, service or undertaking that is not mentioned in this Schedule but where there are safety or environmental obligations including in relation to the production, supply, manufacturer,

repair, maintenance, cleaning, security, wholesale, distribution, transportation or sale of equipment, goods or services essential to the operation of the business, service or undertaking and the business cannot operate on-site for any other purpose;

(nn) union, peak body or employer organisation officials attending a worksite as permitted by law or for work health and safety advice;

(oo) a person who is:

(i) critical to, and involved in the Northern Territory's COVID-19 response (including in quarantine); or

(ii) a "fly in fly out" worker or a "drive in drive out" worker who is required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of a competitive operation where the service is time-critical, who is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to a region of, or to, the Northern Territory; or

(iii) a maritime crew member;

(pp) farm animal and bloodstock leasing activities, including the following:

(i) farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, irrigation, permaculture, apiculture, grains, fibre production, dairy, flower industry, commercial fishing, aquaculture and livestock;

(ii) intensive agricultural production, including greenhouses and animal production;

(iii) agricultural, veterinary chemicals and vaccine production, transportation and distribution;

(iv) laboratory and diagnostic services;

(v) animal feed production, transportation, packaging, sale, and feeding (including livestock and pets);

(vi) animal pounds and shelters but not so as to offer access to the public;

(qq) a business or undertaking providing essential support services to permitted agriculture, forestry and fishing activities, such as food safety and

verification, inspection or associated laboratory services and biosecurity functions.

3 A person who provides any of the following health services is an essential worker for these Directions:

(a) emergency medical consulting, procedures and surgery undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so expediently and safely will lead to any of the following outcomes:

- (i) loss of life;
- (ii) loss of limb;
- (iii) permanent disability;

(b) non-emergency but urgent medical consulting, procedures and surgery undertaken for the investigation, diagnosis and management of conditions where failure to do so in a clinically appropriate timeframe will lead to a predictable and evidence-based outcome as follows:

- (i) loss of life where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this;
- (ii) permanent disability where appropriate health intervention would otherwise have prevented this;
- (iii) where clinical evidence supports an increased risk of a type referred to in the above points should appropriate health intervention be significantly delayed;

(c) emergency and licensed non-emergency patient transport;

(d) any health services provided under the auspices of a hospital, urgent care centre or similar service including remote health clinics;

(e) any health services provided by a general practitioner;

(f) any health services provided by a nursing professional or midwife;

(g) any health services provided at a radiology service;

(h) procedures and surgical treatment undertaken by oral health professionals (e.g. dentists and oral health therapists) in the management of patients with

urgent needs that include any of the following:

- (i) facial swelling;
  - (ii) intra-oral swelling;
  - (iii) facial trauma;
  - (iv) dental trauma;
  - (v) significant, constant or uncontrollable pain;
- (i) fertility treatment, including IVF treatment;
  - (j) termination of a pregnancy;
  - (k) drug and alcohol services;
  - (l) the following allied health services when providing critical clinical care:
    - (i) speech pathologist;
    - (ii) sonographer;
    - (iii) social worker;
    - (iv) radiation therapist;
    - (v) radiographer;
    - (vi) psychologist;
    - (vii) prosthetist or orthotist;
    - (viii) podiatrist;
    - (ix) physiotherapist;
    - (x) pharmacist;
    - (xi) occupational therapist;
    - (xii) dietitian;
    - (xiii) exercise physiologist;
    - (xiv) audiologist;
    - (xv) chiropractor;
    - (xvi) osteopath;

- (m) the conduct of human medical research trials;
  - (n) the following mental health services:
    - (i) hospital emergency or inpatient mental health services;
    - (ii) private psychiatry practice;
    - (iii) mental health services in community settings;
- 4 To avoid doubt, a person who provides the following health services is not an essential worker for these Directions:
- (a) cosmetic surgery or procedures that are elective and do not address significant medical conditions;
  - (b) non-urgent elective surgery.

5 In this Schedule:

**critical clinical** care means:

- (a) to prevent a significant change or deterioration in functional independence which would result in an escalation of care needs; or
- (b) to provide assessment and diagnostic services to clients or patients for whom, if care is delayed, it is likely to result in adverse health outcomes (including access to diagnostic imaging services or assessment for prescription of assistive equipment and technology); or
- (c) to provide services that are essential as part of a broader plan of care with a medical practitioner; or
- (d) to provide services that are part of a conservative management plan to avoid or delay elective surgery (as agreed with the treating team); or
- (e) to provide services immediately following elective surgery that prevent secondary complications or aid functional recovery (as agreed with the treating team).

*Example for definition **critical clinical care**, paragraph (a)*

*An increase in frequency of treatment needed, an increased need for prescription medication due to a significant increase in pain, requirement for specialist input or review, an increase in care needs, or a substantial increase to anticipated recovery time associated with a delay in receiving services.*

*Example for definition **critical clinical care**, paragraph (b)*

*Fitting a brace post-surgery.*