

From: ALNA Communications media@alna.net.au
Subject: Lockdowns Update – NT Chief Health Officer determines Newsagents not essential - next steps, Financial support announced for NSW Small Businesses
Date: 29 June 2021 at 5:12 pm
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Lockdowns Update - 29 June 2021

NT Chief Health Officer determines Newsagents not essential - next steps, Financial support announced for NSW Small Businesses

NT Chief Health Officer determines Newsagents not essential - next steps for NT retailers

ALNA has been in regular contact with the NT government regarding the status of Newsagents in the Lockdown and whether they can continue to provide essential services as they have in other jurisdictional lockdowns.

We have made multiple representations to the Chief of Staff to Health Minister and Racing, Gaming and Licensing Minister, the Hon Natasha Fyles, as well as representations direct to the Chief Ministers Office.

ALNA was told late yesterday off the back of our advocacy that a query had been escalated to Emergency Operations Command (EOC) on our behalf for consideration.

The Ministers office have in the last hour advised us that **the NT Chief Health Officer has made a determination that Newsagents won't be**

~~...Team Chief has made a determination that newsagents will be~~
considered essential and will need to remain closed during the lockdown period. ALNA asked for clarification as to the reasons why and the only information provided was that as it is predominantly a metro lockdown and that there are other retail outlets to supply these services.

ALNA pointed out that the decision is entirely inconsistent with all other jurisdictions and that the NT government has had over 12 months to decide and consult on an appropriate plan for lockdowns that would have given all businesses certainty, yet it appears now that policy is being developed on the run.

It is important that small businesses have certainty, and a consistent approach between the different jurisdictions is not an unreasonable expectation for troubled retailers to have in the circumstances.

In all of the multiple lockdowns in Victoria newsagents have been allowed to remain open as an essential service along with Supermarkets and Pharmacies. They have also been allowed to remain open in the multiple lockdowns in Perth & Brisbane, the Northern Beaches (NSW) lockdown and the current lockdown in greater Sydney, the lockdown in NW Tasmania and even in the Adelaide lockdown, where they were originally left off the essential service list, they were then allowed to re-open earlier before other retailers once there was more understanding around this need by government. This is also in line with overseas precedents of leaving newsagents open during lockdowns.

Newsagents provide a critical essential access point for news, basic essentials and information for many older members of our community who don't access their information digitally, and they are also an important place where these people receive social assistance. They are specialists for news media and have been vital in previous lockdowns (and extensions), servicing 35% of the community every week, they are a sensible risk-based approach to limiting crowding in supermarkets, while providing important necessities (office supplies) for those working or studying from home, as well as basic conveniences like milk, toiletries, games, puzzles and entertainment to support the health and wellbeing of people forced to stay at home during these periods.

ALNA is incredibly frustrated by the approach. ALNA wrote to Minister Fyles about this and some other matters last year in anticipation of future lockdowns being required.

Next steps – How you can assist?

ALNA will continue to prosecute the matter with the government, but it is important that they now hear directly from members your displeasure.

Given the lockdown period has now been extended, and members in NT are understandably angry, we would like you to contact your local member of parliament and your federal members immediately about the inconsistent application of policy..

We have prepared the below script which can be used in an email or over the phone. You can vary as you see fit as we have already had examples of frustrations hearing that Harvey Norman is open and elderly customers were unable to get phone credit or masks for example that we could have provided and that weren't available nearby.

Hello this is <full name>

I own and operate the newsagency/store at <xxx> in your electorate. Can you please pass a message onto <insert MP name, e.g. Kezia> for me?

*I would like **him/her** to make representations on my behalf to the Chief Minister*

We have been told that we have to close as we aren't considered an essential service by the Chief Health Officer.

This advice is inconsistent with every other jurisdiction in Australia that has been through a lock down or is in one now.

In all current lockdowns, in QLD, NSW, & WA, and all VIC lockdowns, newsagents were considered essential and able to remain open.

We play an essential role in the community, especially for elderly or vulnerable people and we provide:

- *An easy access point for newspapers, parcel delivery and pick-up, information and basic daily necessities like milk, bread, and some toiletries and a range of supplies required for working and learning from home in lockdowns such as office stationery and educational supplies for various consumers.*
- *Many newsagents are "mixed business" and double as convenience stores for many, therefore could be captured under the definition of "convenience stores"*
- *Importantly, older Australians who don't access their news and information digitally often do so from a news agency, many have attended our stores or contacted us directly in the last few days furious about the approach being taken.*
- *We service around 35% of the population and provide a sensible risk-based solution to manage social distancing and alleviating crowding in supermarkets for these items.*

Newsagents are not places people gather; customers are encouraged to transact and vacate quickly

- *Transmission risk is low - lower than it would be at a pharmacy, post outlet or supermarket*
- *We are enforcing social distancing and sanitation guidelines*

Given the lockdown period has now been extended, I'm anxious to understand why I would be treated differently in the NT to other jurisdictions and why consultations on such decisions haven't occurred earlier in the pandemic so we could have had certainty about these decisions?

Please help and ask the Chief to ensure we can continue to service your local community.

For contact details of all state MP's there is a link [HERE](#)

You should also call Federal MPs and Senators:

You should also call Federal MPs and Senators:

- **Luke Gosling**, Member for Solomon

◦ 3/266 Trower Road

0/200 flower road

Casuarina, NT, 0810 - [\(08\) 8928 0180](tel:(08)89280180)

- **Warren Snowdon**, Member for Lingiari
 - Unit 3, 12 Gregory Terrace
Alice Springs, NT, 0870 - [\(08\) 8952 9696](tel:(08)89529696)
- Senator **Malarndirri McCarthy**
 - 38 Mitchell Street
Darwin, NT, 0800 - [\(08\) 8941 0003](tel:(08)89410003)

Find out whose Federal electorate you are in here: electorate.aec.gov.au/

Please keep Colin updated on any progress and thank you for your insights and information so far.

Would you like to speak to the Media about this?

We would welcome any members who might be interested in speaking to the media about this please contacting Colin Shipton.

3 Day Lockdown announced in QLD from 6pm - **Most of Retail Open**

As announced this morning, from 6pm Tuesday 29 June 2021, a 3 day lockdown will be in place for the following Local Government Areas (LGAs):

- Noosa
- Sunshine Coast
- Ipswich
- Logan
- Redlands
- Moreton Bay
- Brisbane
- Gold Coast
- Scenic Rim
- Lockyer Valley
- Somerset
- Townsville City
- Palm Island Aboriginal Shire

We understand that in this lockdown the same restrictions will apply to Newsagents and Lottery Kiosks as with the previous Brisbane Lockdowns, which means that Newsagents and Lottery Kiosks will be permitted to trade during the lockdown while observing all health requirements and COVID Safe Plans.

QR Code registrations

We recommend immediately adopting QR code registration of customers to be ahead of the curve, which we reported on in last Fridays Newsletter.

It will become mandatory in a number of new sectors including Newsagents to use the Check in QLD App from 1am Friday, 9 July. For information on how to comply please see the links below.

- Link to the list of businesses that need to use the Qld check in app by 9 July: [Businesses, activities and undertakings | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/businesses-activities-and-undertakings)
- How to REGISTER for the App - https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qld#_business
- Where to find the info on 'what's changed since 1am today': [Businesses, activities and undertakings | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/businesses-activities-and-undertakings) This also has a bunch of FAQs about definitions of things like 'meaning of seated and ticketed'
- COVID Safe checklist for restricted businesses: [COVID Safe Checklist: Restricted Businesses \(covid19.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/covid-safe-checklist-restricted-businesses)
- Link for FAQs on contact tracing for business: [Collecting contact information for COVID-19 | Queensland Health](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/collecting-contact-information-for-covid-19)
- This contains answers to questions like 'can a single patron provide contact info for other guests in their party?'

For Further Information on the 3-Day Lockdown and Restrictions for rest of Queensland and requirements please check [HERE](#)

Support package for NSW Small Businesses announced

The NSW Government has announced a financial support package to assist NSW small businesses impacted by the current COVID-19

restrictions. The package includes grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000

restrictions. The package includes grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for small businesses, payroll tax deferrals for all employers. To be eligible for the grants, businesses will need to show a decline in turnover across a minimum two-week period after the commencement of major restrictions on June 26.

NSW Small Business Commissioner Chris Lamont thanked businesses and industry groups for their support and input to the package. “I have spoken with many small businesses and their representatives over the past few days and their insights and experience have been crucial,” Mr Lamont said.

The grant is as follows

Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant.

Available to businesses and sole traders with a turnover of more than \$75,000 per annum but below the NSW Government 2020-21 payroll tax threshold of \$1,200,000 as at 1 July 2020.

These businesses must have fewer than 20 full time equivalent employees and an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered in New South Wales or be able to demonstrate they are physically located and primarily operating in New South Wales.

(Full criteria will be available in coming days on the Service NSW website).

More information on the small business support grants will be available shortly on the [Service NSW](#) website.

WA - Perth and Peel minimum 4 Day Lockdown - **Most of Retail Open**

ALNA notified WA members last night that a four day lockdown for the Perth and Peel region – 12.01 am, Tuesday 29th of June to 12.01 am, Saturday 3rd of July would apply.

Newsagents and Lottery Kiosks are permitted to open as per the below excerpt from the media release, under “others”, as our industry was able to trade during previous lockdowns.

- *retail permitted but only for essential health services and*

essential goods such as supermarkets, pharmacies, hardware, petrol and others;

People will be required to stay at home unless they need to:

- work because it is not possible to work from home or remotely;
- purchase or provide essentials such as food, groceries, medicine and necessary supplies;
- attend medical or healthcare needs including a COVID-19 vaccination, and looking after the vulnerable; and
- exercise with a maximum of two adults from the same household (children under 18 years are not counted), limited to one hour per day within a five kilometre radius from home, and masks must be worn (except for vigorous exercise).

The following restrictions apply for the retail sector during this lockdown period:

- retail permitted but only for essential health services and essential goods such as supermarkets, pharmacies, hardware, petrol and others;
- non-essential retail restricted to click-and-collect or delivery only;
- beauty, nail and hair services to close;
- restaurants, cafés, pubs and bars to provide takeaway service only;
- casinos, nightclubs, entertainment venues and public venues to close;
- public venues such as swimming pools and recreation centres to close;
- fitness venues including gyms, Pilates, yoga, dance studios to close;
- public events are not permitted;
- people can enter the Perth and Peel areas only to access or deliver essential health and emergency services and other essential requirements.

Exposure locations are being updated regularly so people are encouraged to check the information online at <https://www.wa.gov.au>.



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This email is sent for important news updates

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