

COVID-19

RURAL AND REMOTE RESPONSE

Media release

8 July 2020

Stay COVID Smart and COVIDSafe – it's the responsible thing to do

It's more important than ever to adopt safe practices including downloading the COVIDSafe App to minimise the spread of coronavirus, say peak rural medical bodies The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Rural Doctors Association (RDAA).

And, without acting now, it could be too late.

ACRRM President Dr Ewen McPhee said with numbers increasing daily in Victoria, the rest of the nation cannot relax its guard.

"The COVIDSafe App is helping identify potential contact cases in Victoria right now.

"With travellers making the most of their mid-winter break, it is vital people have it installed so the government can find and contain outbreaks quickly, and communicate with those who may have been in contact to minimise the spread.

"If you don't already have it, it's not too late to download it," he stressed.

RDAA President Dr John Hall reinforced that families, workers, students as well as young and senior individuals consider more than themselves during this time.

"It doesn't matter where you live or what you do in your day-to-day lives; you must do all you can to reduce the risk of your family, friends and colleagues catching this terrible disease.

"By taking simple steps, which for most people have become routine, we can make a difference.

"Maintain good hand hygiene and social distancing. "And if you are sick, please stay home and organise to be tested. "All rural and remote doctors have the knowledge and skill to test and support you.

"Wearing masks when out and about in COVID-19 hotspots is also important. "

"It is good to see the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has joined our previous calls for people to wear masks in situations where you cannot socially distance. "Whenever you are on public transport or in crowded areas, wearing a mask makes sense.

COVID-19

RURAL AND REMOTE RESPONSE

“But wearing a mask won’t cut it alone. “Maintaining strict social distancing and hand hygiene remains vitally important.

“And, please, keep the COVIDSafe App on all the time. “It’s not just the smart thing to do, it’s the responsible thing to do.”

Find more information on how to protect yourself, your family and community from COVID-19 at www.health.gov.au.

A high resolution photo of ACRRM President, Dr Ewen McPhee, is available here:
<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/968>

A high resolution photo of RDAA President, Dr John Hall, is available here:
<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/687>

Available for interview:

Dr John Hall - RDAA President

Dr Ewen McPhee - ACRRM President

Media contacts (RDAA)

Ineke Kuiper on 0408 669 638

Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890

Media contacts (ACRRM)

Petrina Smith on 0414 820 847

ACRRM National Office on 1800 223 226