

NESST Newsflash

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the NESST Newsflash.

Expect to see this each week for the foreseeable – we will try to capture the state of play at the close of each week.

If you wish to unsubscribe to this Newsletter, please reply to this email and NESST will remove you from our mailing list. ☺

New England Sector Support Team



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New England CHSP Regional Zoom

Our next Regional CHSP Zoom will be held on Wednesday 27 May 2020. ACAT and RAS will be attending 😊 Please get back to us with any agenda items. An invitation will be sent out soon.

New to Zoom?

Jen has adapted a handy tool for those people who are new to Zoom. Please see it on our website:

NESST ZOOM Protocol CHSP 200430 [Zoom Protocol CHSP 200430](#)

Easing of restrictions – COVID -19 Update

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

Become a Digital Mentor and make a difference.

Do you have clients, family or friends who are struggling to learn new digital skills and stay connected?

Join this course via Zoom from the comfort of your own home or from one of the colleges and learn how to support the people in your life as they learn how to use computers and the internet

This fee-free training session will help you develop the skills you need to be a digital mentor

Contact the Northern Inland Community College to find out more 67821662

<https://www.communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au/course/BeDiMe>

SACS ERO Supplement

The Social and Community Services (SACS) supplement is scheduled to cease on 30 June 2021. To assist these CHSP providers, the department has agreed to increase the ongoing base funding of all SACS-eligible CHSP providers in 2021-22. The department will decide how to allocate the funds over the coming months. Payments will be made in financial year 2021-22. Only CHSP providers who are currently eligible for the SACS supplement will be eligible for this funding.

Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Emergency Leave) Bill 2020

The Government introduced the Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Emergency Leave) Bill 2020 into the House of Representatives on Wednesday 13 May 2020. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be found [here](#).

COVIDSafe app

On 14 May 2020, the government passed legislation to support the COVIDSafe app, the [**Privacy Amendment \(Public Health Contact Information\) Bill 2020**](#).

Amongst other new offences, the legislation makes it an offence for an employer to require an employee or prospective employee to download and use the app as a condition of employment, or to take adverse action against an employee or prospective employee for not doing so.

An employer will also contravene the general protections provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009* if it takes adverse action against an employee or prospective employee for not downloading or using the app.

These provisions are contained in cl.94H(2) of the legislation.

Once the legislation receives Royal Assent, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates & advice and general protections pages on our website will be updated to reflect the expansion of the workplace rights protected under the Commission's general protections disputes jurisdiction.

Safe Work Australia COVID-19 resources

Safe Work Australia has provided advice and resources for organisations and business to assist with the implementation of safe work practices during the pandemic. The resources include videos, downloadable posters and fact sheets

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19information-workplaces>

Carer Gateway Update

Carers can talk to a Carer Gateway service provider by calling 1800 422 737 Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm. Carer Gateway staff will talk through what carers' needs and help to find services and support. If needed, Carers can phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450. The Translating and Interpreting Service provides access to interpreters who speak more than 160 languages. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Carer Gateway also has a national website (carergateway.gov.au) that has online services and information to support carers.

Staying well, staying positive: A guide to coping with Covid-19 for older Australians

Physical distancing and isolating yourself from others in the age of COVID-19 is creating new and unique challenges, particularly for older Australians. Having been advised to stay home and self-isolate wherever possible, older people now find themselves being physically separated from loved ones and perhaps feeling as if their lives and day-to-day routines have been abruptly turned upside down. [Beyond Blue](#) have put together a few useful strategies to help older people stay well and feel positive as we ride out the pandemic. [Read more](#)

Free COVID-19 preparedness tool available

Aged care services have been among the most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. ACSA Partner [MOA Benchmarking](#) has pledged their support by providing a [free online tool](#) available to all aged care, home care and retirement living services to comprehensively self-assess their preparedness for COVID-19. Importantly, the tool is continuously updated with the almost-daily changes to Government control measures and infection control guidelines relevant to each sector. Benchmarked reporting provides real-time insights on potential gaps, risks and opportunities for improvement. [Read more](#)

Digital library in 28 languages for CALD Communities

Videos in Language: Coronavirus and Handwashing is a digital library of important coronavirus health information, videos, and tips in 28 languages commonly spoken in Australia's refugee and asylum seeker communities. Resources are grouped by languages, including Dinka, Swahili, Arabic, Kurdish, Bengali and Tibetan - with links to videos and health information sites underneath in the specified language.

[Read more](#)

Recognising & Coping with Stress & Anxiety in the Virtual Workplace - 19 May 2020, Online

Cost: NCOSS Members \$44; Non-members \$60.50

This workshop is designed to give participants the opportunity to explore and understand the virtual working world that has been generated by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will focus on the impact of stress and anxiety in this new situation so that we can all more clearly understand the pressures currently being brought to bear. Strategies to deal with stress and anxiety relating to the individual needs of participants will be explored in order to help them deal with this new situation.

[Register](#)

Contact: 0439 048 449 or info@leadpda.org.au

How to design human-centred services remotely during COVID-19

27 May 2020, 11am – 12pm

Join this 60-minute virtual workshop to learn how to use Human-Centred Design and Co-Design techniques to design better services via digital collaboration tools.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycy4j4h7>

New Australian Government Funding and Policy Changes to Support the Community Sector

Last week the Federal Government announced [incentives for philanthropic funds to give more support to charities during COVID-19](#), and declared the COVID-19 pandemic a 'disaster' for the purpose of establishing disaster relief funds as DGRs, allowing these funds to receive tax deductible donations. An additional [\\$63.3 million for the legal assistance sector](#) was also announced with funding going towards additional frontline legal services with a focus on matters involving domestic violence, and IT costs to support the sector's transition to delivering assistance virtually and online. Given the dramatic increase in the numbers of people seeking advice and assistance from community legal centres during the pandemic, this is a much-needed boost to these essential services.

The Leaders Challenge

THE LEADER'S CHALLENGE is a free 6-month leadership development experience for leaders and aspiring leaders working (or volunteering) in any social services (disability, mental health, health, community services, etc), anywhere in Australia. The entire program is digital and there are no pre-requisites.

It draws on current experiences, so can suit someone with little to no leadership experience as well as those with many years of experience.

[Find out more](#)

Check it out and if it looks right for you or someone else you know, Verge Collaborative look forward to you joining in.

Contact: leaderschallenge@vergecollaborative.org

Royal Commission continues to encourage submissions on impact of COVID-19

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety continues to encourage submissions from aged care providers, people who receive aged care services, and their families, who are affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Commissioners have already begun looking into the impact of the virus on aged care, consistent with their terms of reference, so that their final report may be informed by the lessons learnt from the pandemic. The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2020, subject to ongoing review given the effects of COVID-19. [Read more](#)

Fifty Acres Academy Webinars for NFPs - May 2020

Fifty Acres is a for-good communications and engagement agency. They are hosting a series of free training webinars for not-for-profits, with topics including:

- how to create a successful low budget not-for-profit PR campaign;
- working effectively as a remote team; and
- crisis & donors communications.

[More information and registration](#)

Upcoming ACSA Events

- 20 May: [A Taste of Resilience](#) (Online)
- 21 May: [Getting the most out of Zoom!](#) (Online)
- 26 May: [Being Curious: Reframing Retirement - Mindset for Life](#) (Online)
- 2 - 4 June: [ACSA Quality Care Online Symposium](#) (Online)
- 3 June: [Managing Difficult Conversations](#) (Online)
- 10 June: [Right Relationships](#) (Online)
- 22 - 24 February 2021: [ACSA National Summit](#)