



# Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

A.B.N. 77 261 612 162

PMB 227 Umuwa via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone: (08) 8954 8101 Fax: (08) 8954 8170

[www.anangu.com.au](http://www.anangu.com.au)

## APY EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

30 June 2020

The APY Executive Board met on Monday, June 29 to consider how best to continue protecting vulnerable Anangu from COVID-19.

A resolution was passed to formally “opt out” of restrictions under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015* to restrict travel into remote Indigenous communities. APY will work with Nganampa Health, SA Health and SAPOL to secure our borders while safely repatriating those Anangu currently off the Lands.

Once the “opt out” resolution is accepted and confirmed by federal and state authorities, the APY Lands will come under South Australian (state) COVID-19 restrictions. These are more responsive and flexible to the South Australian COVID-19 situation.

### **This process will take up to three weeks.**

Since March, APY was among specific Aboriginal communities that “opted in” to restrictions under a Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act* Determination. On 15 May 2020, National Cabinet agreed to extend the Determination from 17 June 2020 until 17 September 2020.

Under the Determination, APY residents and others who wish to enter or re-enter the Lands must first self-isolate for 14 days and receive formal written permission.

### **The decision by APY to “opt out” does not mean that the threat of COVID-19 has passed.**

Everyone must continue to follow expert medical advice and act responsibly to keep the APY Lands free of COVID-19.

There has been a recent rise in case numbers in Victoria and Australia is not free of this pandemic.

APY General Manager Richard King urged all Anangu to keep doing their bit to stop the spread of COVID-19.

“This is not a return to normal,” Mr King said. “Although we have successfully flattened the COVID-19 curve in Australia, and have seen an easing of restrictions in Adelaide, we are far from being COVID-19 free as clusters are continuing to occur around Australia.”

Remember that if you have COVID-19 symptoms such as a fever or cough to seek medical advice right away and self-isolate until you get the all-clear.

Maintain social distancing (1.5 metres) and be careful in how you interact with people, particularly those more at-risk, such as older people and those with existing health conditions.

Hand wash or sanitise regularly and cough or sneeze into your elbow.

**Further information, including a revised process for entering the APY Lands, will be posted on the APY Facebook page and website as soon as more details become available.**