

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 Zoom this week went well. Thank you to all who took part. The recording of the meeting will be on our web-site soon.

Our next Regional CHSP Zoom will be held on Thursday 25 June 2020. ACAT and RAS will be invited
☺ Please get back to us with any further agenda items or suggested speakers.

Launch of NESST Free On-line Training

We are very excited to be able to offer access to our first module – Community Basics. This is introductory training on Duty of Care, Confidentiality and Professional Boundaries. This is now freely available to all interested participants. A certificate is emailed on completion. Please share with your staff and volunteers within the New England area:

<https://www.inductforwork.com.au/portals/new-england-sector-support-team-online-induction-nesst-basic-training>

We are developing more modules and will advise as they are added. Please get in touch if you would like to have input into the development or further content.

Virtual Social Centre Opportunity

With CHSP social transport and group allied health classes restricted due to COVID-19, Feros Care has gone virtual! Feros Care is running online group social and exercise programs through their **Virtual Social Centre**. Seniors pay a weekly subscription to access the programs online, and can use their personal tablet or computer to link into live and interactive programs. More than 60 different sessions are offered each week, tailoring to a diverse range of interests. Feros Care is offering other aged care providers access to the Virtual Social Centre, through a brokerage or subcontractor arrangement. To enquire, please phone 1300 763 583 or email Vidya Gopinath at vidyagopinath@feroscare.com.au. [Learn more](#)

Forced Innovation in Aged and Community Care Settings: ACIITC national forum

The Aged Care Industry Information Technology Council is hosting a National Forum on 3 June. The forum will hear from an international panel of experts on COVID-19 effects on the aged and community care sector, gain insights into the ACIITC CARE-IT research project and provide an opportunity for attendees to provide their input into shaping the future national agendas for innovation and technology. Forced Innovation in Aged and Community Care Settings: *International and National perspectives on changing care models, responsive workforces and technological enhancement* will be held Wednesday 3 June, 10am-12pm (AEST). [Register now](#)

Supporting isolated senior Australians to stay connected

The Morrison Government is supporting senior Australians through two new initiatives to prevent loneliness and social isolation under a \$6 million communications package. Almost \$5 million will be used to significantly expand Friend Line, a national telephone support service for older Australians, to answer 60,000 calls a year. The Government has also awarded \$1 million in grants to 215 local community organisations to provide at-risk seniors with digital devices such as mobile phones and laptops. Access to timely support as well as digital and social connections are essential to support older Australians to live independently. [Read more](#)

2020 National Carer Survey

Carers across the country are invited to have their say – Carers around Australia are being asked to speak up and have their say by completing the [2020 National Carer Survey](#). The survey will help Carers NSW and others advocate for carers, influence policy development, and improve service delivery for carers into the future. The survey is completely anonymous and is open to any family or friend carer over the age of 16. Open now until 30 June 2020.

Working within the post-disaster community recovery space.

Australian Red Cross Disaster Recovery Advisors and Mentors Australia (DRAMA) invites you to join host **Kris Newton**, Manager of Mountains Community Resource Network and **Anne Crestani**, Manager of Step by Step Recovery Support Service, as they share their own experiences and learnings of working within the post-disaster community recovery space. This webinar will provide community organisations with insight on how to navigate formal recovery arrangements and how the work they do can support critical community-led long-term recovery. **Thursday, 4 June 2020**
Time: **3:00pm**. [Register for this webinar](#).

The Conversation: How to socialise safely as restrictions ease

You can almost hear the collective sigh of relief as coronavirus restrictions are eased across Australia. But as we emerge from our bunkers and dust off our social skills, we must think about how to navigate this transition safely. The winding back of restrictions does not mean the pandemic is over, although it is a recognition of how well we have done to control the spread of COVID-19 in Australia. There is still a long way to go, and it's everyone's responsibility to limit the chances of coronavirus spreading. The Conversation has answered a few common questions on what social gathering should look like now.

[Read more](#)

Covid-19 and the Impact on Volunteering

Volunteering Australia commissioned the Australian National University (ANU) Centre for Social Research and Methods to undertake analysis of the experience of volunteers during COVID-19 to date. The decline in volunteering during COVID-19 has been substantial, [Read More](#)

Easing of restrictions – COVID -19 Update

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

\$48.1 million for National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan

The Australian Government is continuing to take action to help Australians whose mental health and wellbeing is being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing an additional \$48.1 million to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan. This investment builds on approximately \$500 million for mental health and suicide prevention announced by the Government since 30 January. The Government recognises that many Australians are experiencing fear, anxiety, loneliness, financial and family stress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures needed to contain it. [Read more](#)