

MOTOR TRADERS'
ASSOCIATION OF NSW



MTA MEMBER UPDATE

The voice of the motor industry

Dear Member,

New Rules Enforced by the Australian Government to Combat Coronavirus

On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government announced that effective from 12.00 am 16 March 2020 **all** travellers to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Those who fail to comply with the self-isolation rules will be committing an offence and could face hefty fines and penalties.

The announcement also included a ban on cruise liners from foreign ports arriving at Australian ports for 30 days. Such travellers will also be subject to the self-isolation rules upon departing from the cruise ships.

These decisions have significant impacts on employees and businesses. Firstly, as self-isolation has been imposed by the Government for all travellers, Members will need to be prepared for employees to be absent for these additional periods i.e. an additional 14 days for those returning on flights and at least an additional 44 days for those returning from cruises.

Secondly, employees will either need to elect to use their annual leave entitlements during the self-isolation periods or be placed on unpaid leave. **There is no obligation for Members to pay their employees their ordinary pay during this time as it is a Government directive; not an employer directive.** Sick leave entitlements will only apply if the employee falls ill and is unfit for work as a result.

Furthermore, during the press conference, the Prime Minister announced a ban on static gatherings of more than 500 people. A static gathering is described as sitting in a room for prolonged periods where people are together in close proximity for a sustained period of time. Members should avoid attending and holding such gatherings. Events at a smaller scale held in large rooms or at outdoor/open venues reduce the risks associated with such gatherings.

More information on the press conference can be found by visiting the following link:

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/transcript-press-conference>

If Members have any further enquiries relating to the Coronavirus or employee entitlements during this time, please contact the MTA NSW Employment Relations Department on 02 9016 9000 or by emailing eradvice@mtansw.com.au

Yours faithfully,

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