



**Dr Joe McGirr MP**  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA

**Edition #3**

April 2020



# STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

**Thank you for doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 within our community and beyond. We are saving lives.**

The COVID-19 situation has been hard on all of us, with impacts on every aspect of our lives from schooling, to seeing loved ones and especially economically, with big impacts on many businesses and their employees. In response, there are a number of initiatives to support those affected. These resources can be found online at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) or you can call Service NSW on 13 77 88 to find out more.

While it hasn't been easy, we must continue following the State and Federal Government regulations and stay home

unless completing an essential activity. This is vital to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

I would like to congratulate local businesses, who have adapted and innovated their operations to stay open. Let's keep buying local to support them through this unprecedented crisis. Thank you to teachers, students and parents for coping with the disruptions to schooling. I'm advocating to ensure all students have access to the technology they need.

During these times of physical distancing, I encourage you to check in with friends and family over the phone or online. We must look after each other, because only together can we beat this virus.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

### Health advice

**Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 831 099**  
(7am-9pm seven days a week)

### Financial and other advice

**Service NSW: 13 77 88**  
(24hrs seven days a week)

### Support for small business

**To find out more about the \$10,000 NSW COVID-19 Small Business Support Grant visit [service.nsw.gov.au](http://service.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 77 88**

For the latest updates on restrictions, cost of living assistance, financial support for businesses or rules around social distancing, please download the 'Service NSW' app.

## CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



**It has never been a better time to buy local and support local businesses.**

Wagga Wagga City Council, together with industry groups and businesses, also launched a 'Live Local. Be Local.' initiative as a one-stop-shop, providing support to our business community. Head to [livelocalbelocal.com](http://livelocalbelocal.com) for more information.

Our tourism industry is also facing an incredibly tough time and in response, Destination Riverina Murray has launched its #wevegotthegoods campaign, promoting innovation across the industry. If you buy from a local producer, snap a picture and share it on Instagram using the hashtag #wevegotthegoods. You can also follow @myriverinamurray on Instagram to see what others are posting.



Want to know the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in NSW?  
Visit [nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

## VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

The founder of Visual Dreaming in Wagga Wagga said it was heartbreaking knowing residents were struggling with the social distancing regulations, resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.

It is the reason Ms Sanders drew together a number of Wiradjuri Elders and community leaders to record their thoughts and innovative ideas on coping in these strange times. She said the plan was to launch virtual workshops, introducing viewers to a range of topics and skills, including weaving, gardening, and crafting handmade balm and hand sanitiser, with sessions embracing cultural teachings, language and stories. Be sure to follow my Facebook page to learn more.

## STAY AT HOME

The NSW State Library is collecting images of life during this unprecedented moment in our history.

You can add your own 'At Home' experiences to the archives for future generations to look back on.

For more information, visit [sl.nsw.gov.au/nswathome](http://sl.nsw.gov.au/nswathome)



## VOLUNTEERS CALLED TO SUPPORT ISOLATED SENIORS

Are you stuck at home wondering how you can help others through this crisis?



Wagga Wagga residents are being urged to answer a desperate call for friendship and connection, with social distancing restrictions making older generations feel more alone than ever.

The Community Visitors Scheme connects volunteers with residents in care facilities or at home. But, the Riverina Community College's program coordinator Mr Lean said COVID-19 restrictions had made it impossible for the 50-odd volunteers to engage face-to-face with the hundreds of elderly men and women who relied on those visits. Instead of sitting, chatting, working on a hobby or going for walks, he said there was a fresh focus on phone calls and virtual catch ups.

If you would like to take up the call, you can contact a Riverina Community College CVS coordinator on (02) 6933 5555 or to email [info@riverinacc.edu.au](mailto:info@riverinacc.edu.au) for further information.



Please contact me to discuss State Government matters

As your local member I value your feedback. While my office is currently closed to walk-ins, you can still get in touch via:

Email [waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Phone (02) 6921 1622

Online [joemcgirr.com.au](http://joemcgirr.com.au)



Dr Joe McGirr MP