



Council urges communities to take care and be prepared for cancellations of gatherings.

The Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) urged our community groups to follow some of the advice of the Department of Health (State and Federal) in regard to the conduct of events that involve gatherings of people. The Department of Health has given advice to the Government and when they make the decision as to what part of the advice they intend to adopt, this will be communicated widely.

Suresh Rajan, President of ECCWA said today “We are very much in uncharted territory here. As we indicated before, the procedures and protocols are evolving every day and we will need to stay abreast of the issues as we hear about them. Today we have seen the Australian Formula One GP cancel their Australian leg. The Mandurah Crab Fest here in Perth is also being cancelled. There are a number of other events that are also being cancelled.”

“Unfortunately in terms of timing next week is also Harmony Week. It is the week when a number of our communities will be conducting events that celebrate the Multicultural nature of our society. Most of these events will be of numbers of people greater than 500. COAG has decided that events greater than 500 in number are to be cancelled. That cancellation comes into effect from Monday. It does seem a rather strange decision to wait till Monday. My recommendation would be to cancel all the events from today rather than wait till Monday.”

This was the statement from the PM this morning: “Based on the advice we have received today about the increasing number of cases on the evidence of community transition, it has been recommended to us that we moved to a position by Monday where we will be advising against organised non-essential gatherings of persons of 500 people or greater — from Monday.”

This ban does not apply to schools and universities. They will conduct their business as usual.

“We urge communities to contact us if they have any concerns or doubts about the impact of these bans and how to deal with the resulting issues” said Suresh Rajan.

**For media enquiries please contact Suresh Rajan on 0403 276 960
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