

10 November 2020

Dear Mambourin Community Member,

Re: Further updates on Mambourin's return to services

We are all celebrating the State Government's announcement that they are further easing restrictions. I would like to provide you with an update on how these latest changes will affect services at Mambourin and would also like to answer some questions we received in response to my last letter dated 27 October.

Why can't Mambourin open when schools, retail and hospitality can?

The State Government has put in place different restriction levels for different industries. That's why we see retail and hospitality opening but others like centre-based disability providers not opening yet. Disability service providers fall under the Community Services Industry.

Only disability services that are essential to a person's health, safety, behaviour or wellbeing are allowed to operate during Step 3 (current) and the Last Step.

We appreciate the difficulties the restrictions create and how important it is that we return to full services as soon as possible. However, we must follow government guidelines to protect the people that we support – many of whom have health conditions that put them in the high-risk group for infection. The wellbeing and safety of our community is our top priority.

How long will disability services remain restricted?

DHHS confirmed that centre-based group programs will remain restricted until we reach the COVID Normal stage of restrictions.

In my last letter I referred to the government's current benchmark for moving to the COVID-Normal stage. This is currently stated as zero cases for 28 days on the government's website. I understand this caused some confusion and I apologise for that. Just to clarify, it is not Mambourin who requires zero cases for 28 days to reopen, that is the government directive, and we are awaiting government advice that we can reopen. Restrictions continue to change in response to case numbers, and hopefully we will see this COVID Normal stage reached sooner than expected.



What are the changes to Mambourin's current services?

This is the good news! DHHS has clarified that disability service providers can run outdoor activities that can be safely delivered to smaller numbers of people at a time (within current gathering limits).

This means we can offer small group supports in the community. Groups could return to hubs if required e.g. bad weather. Under these circumstances it would become "essential" that they return to a safe place. All social distancing and infection control procedures will be strictly followed.

The opening of the metropolitan/regional border will also allow for more travel to outdoor activities, particularly for our Melton and Bacchus Marsh community.

Next steps

A team member will be in touch to discuss small group outdoor activity options. They will also ask about your plans for returning when we can reopen. This will help us to plan resources for a safe return to group programs.

We will be inviting all community members to an online community meeting where you will have an opportunity to ask questions about Mambourin's COVID safe plan and our plans for return to hub programs. More information on this will be sent out next week.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me directly at CEO@mambourin.org.

Yours sincerely,



Rohan Braddy
Chief Executive Officer