

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Anzac Day trade shift, shop hours extended

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Treasurer Rob Lucas will today use ministerial powers to allow the trading, that is usually confined to the CBD, in the name of social distancing to cope with the coronavirus.

He will also extend a 30 day exemption period that gave all supermarkets the option to trade 24 hours a day on Monday to Friday, 12am to 9pm on Saturday, and 9am to 9pm on Sunday.

The State Government went to the election with a strong deregulated shop trading hours agenda but Mr Lucas said the latest move was squarely focused on helping with the response to the coronavirus.

"The health advice is pretty clear," Mr Lucas, pictured, said.

"Health experts support the extension of the hours because it allows social distancing and spreading customers over a longer period of time.

"It is all part of the big jigsaw puzzle trying to flatten the curve. It has been one element of a total package of measures which have been introduced to give some flexibility to people."

Mr Lucas said various **D r a k e s**, **Woolworths**, **Coles**, **Aldi** and other independent stores had taken advantage of the flexibility of his first decision.

"Coles, for example, has recently extended its opening hours to 10pm Monday to Friday, and until 9pm on weekends, in addition to opening two hours earlier on a Sunday morning and introducing a dedicated community hour each weekday from 7am to 8am. Woolworths has also introduced a dedicated community hour from 7am weekdays, is currently trading later on weekends and opening earlier on Sundays."

Mr Lucas said restrictions on Anzac Day morning trading remained government policy and all the current exemptions had been made in response to the coronavirus.

Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas said the fact that Mr Lucas was able to make exemptions under extraordinary circumstances highlighted the laws governing shop trading hours were right.

Last month SDA secretary Josh Peak, who represents supermarket workers, said the deregulated hours did not make sense because supermarkets were closing early in order to get stock replenished.

The new exemption will apply from Monday April 20 to Tuesday, May 19 inclusive.

Mr Lucas said employees working during the extended hours would do so strictly on a voluntary basis.

One in three students to return to classrooms

SCHOOLS

MILES KEMP

AT LEAST 30 per cent of the state's public school students are expected to return to classrooms for Term 2 this month.

Parents say that figure is likely to rise if numbers of new coronavirus infections stay low, while the teachers' union says some schools are already expecting up to 80 per cent attendance.

Schools surveyed parents before Term 1 finished early, to assess demand for attendance versus online learning at home when Term 2 begins on April



27. At the survey time, SA was recording 30-plus new cases a day. In recent days there have been no more than two.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday pleaded with schools around the country to stay open, to ensure vulnerable children are cared for and so parents don't have to give up their jobs to look after children at home. That message was most applicable to the eastern states, where state governments have been actively en-

couraging parents to keep children at home. Attendance in NSW has been as low as 5 per cent. The SA Government has consistently said no child will be turned away from schools. At the end of last term, SA public school attendance was 34 per cent.

David Knuckey, the director of parent group the SA Association of State School Organisations, said attendance rates would depend on "the information parents receive from our leaders about the virus".

"It was fear for the health of their family that motivated parents to keep their children home from school," he said.

"It stands to reason then, that if infections stay low and medical experts and the Government tell us we are able to begin to return to normal life, that parents would be keen to have their children return to school." He praised the department and schools for their communication with parents.

Australian Education Union SA president Lara Golding warned that with some schools reporting likely 80 per cent attendance for Term 2, social distancing would not be possible. She feared for the safety of staff.

Association of Independent Schools of SA chief executive Carolyn Grantskalns, pictured,

said health advice was that "schools are safe".

"Schools have worked with their parent communities to identify those students who will be at school so that they can plan both to maintain safe practices and provide adequate supervision," she said.

Catholic Education SA assistant director Bruno Vieceili said most students would be learning from home, but all schools would be open and no child would be turned away.

SA Education Minister John Gardner said he was focused on supporting students whether they were at school or at home, rather than speculating on attendance trends.

Trump halts \$700m WHO funding over its 'failings'



CRITICAL: US President Donald Trump didn't hold back on his criticism of the World Health Organisation at the White House.

Picture: EVAN VUCCI/AP

RESPONSE

SARAH BLAKE
US CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW YORK

So much death has been caused by their mistakes

DONALD TRUMP

ANGRY US President Donald Trump has halted funding to the World Health Organisation over its pandemic response, saying its "political correctness" had cost lives.

Slamming its support of China, Mr Trump yesterday said he would immediately suspend funding amid an investigation into the WHO.

"The WHO failed in its

basic duty and must be held accountable," Mr Trump said at the White House.

"So much death has been caused by their mistakes."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he could "sympathise" with the President's criticisms but indicated Australia's funding for WHO would continue, but he expected reforms.

Mr Morrison faces backbench pressure to make Australia's nearly \$53 million-a-year taxpayer-funded contribution to the World Health Organisation conditional on reforms to the UN body.

Mr Trump's decision to halt funding came as officials said the US was showing encouraging signs that strict social distancing was curbing the spread of the virus.

Nationally, the daily rate of new cases was also increasing at a far slower rate, of 4.6 per cent on April 13 compared to 22.6 per cent two weeks ago.

Mr Trump said WHO's in-

action caused a "20-fold" increase in cases.

The US is the WHO's top contributor, providing more than \$A700 million of its \$A7 billion budget.

Mr Trump, who is under increasing domestic pressure over his handling of COVID-19, has been dealing out heated criticism to both the WHO and China.

By opposing his early bans on travellers from China, Mr Trump said the WHO was guilty of "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus".

The body also resisted

labelling the outbreak a pandemic, instead describing it as a "public-health emergency of international concern".

He said despite this, WHO director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was increasingly "China-centric".

"The WHO pushed China's misinformation about the virus, saying it was not communicable and there was no need for travel bans," he said.

Mr Trump said a review with "very powerful and influential and smart groups" would look at funding new global health models.

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