

**Statement from the Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett, on news of a local case of COVID-19.  
12 August 2021**

This is a very worrying time for our community. Many of our Elders and others in Walgett experience health and social issues that make them vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. The impact on our community could be devastating.

We are urgently requesting the following actions that could help keep Walgett and other communities near us safe and well from COVID-19:

- More trained nurses able to give vaccines and support the work of Aboriginal Medical Services
- Motel rooms to be made immediately available for people who are homeless or needing to isolate away from family
- Accommodation and support for people leaving prison to quarantine while waiting for test results
- Mobile testing and vaccination options led by Aboriginal Medical Services that can visit people in their homes where needed
- Resources and support for wellbeing checks and essential items such as medication, food boxes and water supplies to be distributed by trusted community members
- More masks to be sent to Aboriginal community controlled organisations in Walgett to distribute to community members

We call on governments and others who are in a position to support us to do all they can to help stop the spread of the virus in Walgett and surrounding communities.

Please know that contacting us for media statements or other requests takes us away from our frontline work supporting Elders and other vulnerable people in our community at this time.

Thank you for all your support.