

## FACT SHEET

### *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment*

#### *(Quarantine Debt Recovery) Bill 2020*

This Bill will implement a model for charging for hotel quarantine in Tasmania.

Mandatory hotel quarantine continues to be a key strategy in preventing the importation of COVID-19 into Tasmania. The requirement to enter hotel quarantine is imposed by the exercise of emergency powers under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.

On 24 July 2020, the Premier, Peter Gutwein MP, announced that the Tasmanian Government would introduce charging for hotel quarantine in Tasmania from 31 July 2020. This means that from 31 July 2020 all people undertaking quarantine in government-designated accommodation will be required to pay towards their quarantine, except in certain circumstances.

This approach aligns with the practices of other states and territories who have or are moving toward a model of charging for hotel quarantine. On 10 July 2020, National Cabinet agreed to work towards a uniform model for charging for hotel quarantine across the country.

The proposed amendment to insert Part 6A sets out the legislative framework for implementing charging for hotel quarantine. The key features of Part 6A of the Bill are as follows:

- The Secretary, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) is named as the responsible person for issuing orders and making decisions with respect to the operation of the charging model. Section 25J provides for the Secretary to delegate certain administrative powers to a Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner under the *Police Service Act 2003*.
- The Bill provides that the Secretary may, by order, declare that a person or class of people in government quarantine on or after 31 July 2020 may be required to pay. An order may be amended or revoked by the Secretary.
- The Secretary (or delegate) may serve a person an invoice outlining the payment amount and due date (which is to be a minimum 30 day period).
- The Bill provides for pro-rata payment and details daily rates. This approach is intended to allow for circumstances where a person or family may not be required to quarantine for the full 14 day period.
- The daily rates set in the Bill are as follows: \$200 for a single person, \$71.40 for an additional person and \$35.70 for an additional child. There will be no charge for children under 3 years of age, and accommodation charges will be capped at \$4,800.
- The payment amounts for a single person, additional person, child and family may be adjusted by the Secretary, which is permitted by issuing an order under Section 25C.
- The Bill provides two options for a person to seek an exemption or waiver to the fees. Section 25D provides for a person may apply for a certificate of exemption to seek an exemption to the fees (full or in part) prior to their travel. Alternatively, on receipt of an invoice a person may apply for a waiver of all or in part of the fees set out in an invoice or to alter the payment date specified in an invoice.
- The Bill sets out the circumstances for which an exemption may be granted. These include where there are compassionate or medical reasons for travel, where payment is likely to cause financial hardship or in other relevant circumstances Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Secretary (or delegate).

This Bill will commence on Royal Assent, and apply to people quarantine from 31 July 2020.