

Return to Country – Supported Quarantine Accommodation for Biosecurity

Information Sheet

Housing SA



Government
of South Australia

SA Housing Authority

The following information is designed to assist our partners in increasing awareness among Aboriginal people from remote communities about how to transition back to their communities safely due to current Coronavirus (Covid-19) biosecurity restrictions. It is important that everyone understands what is required to keep themselves and the broader community safe.

Biosecurity restrictions

To ensure communities are kept safe and to stop the spread of COVID-19, the movement of people into certain remote and regional areas across South Australia has been restricted. The restrictions are in place until at least mid-September, which may be extended. The following communities are currently affected:

- Gerard (Riverland)
- Point Pearce (Yorke Peninsula)
- Yalata (Far West Coast)
- Nepabunna (excluding Iga Warta), the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, and the Maralinga Tjarutja (MT) Lands is also restricted.

The biosecurity restrictions mean that before entering or re-entering any of these communities, a person must first quarantine for 14 days. This applies to residents of the community, as well as visitors.

Due to these restrictions, many Aboriginal people have been unable to return to their communities and are in need of support and suitable short-term accommodation in order to meet the quarantine requirements.

What is supported quarantine accommodation?

Housing SA has been working with Aboriginal communities, SA Health and SAPOL to provide a way for Aboriginal people to get home to their communities safely.

Housing SA has provided two supported accommodation options where people can safely quarantine in groups before returning to their communities. Staff will be available at both facilities to support people during the 14-day quarantine and there will be security onsite to prevent unauthorised entry during quarantine.

During the 14-day quarantine, strict protocols will be in place for staff and residents to ensure their safety. Once the quarantine begins, people need to remain at the facility for the 14 days to complete the quarantine requirements.

This service is entirely voluntary and clients are free to leave at any time, however to keep everyone safe, anyone who chooses to leave the accommodation during the quarantine will not be allowed back in for the remainder of the two-week period. If they leave and want to access the accommodation again, they may be asked to pay for it themselves.

Once people have completed their 14-day quarantine and have been cleared to leave by staff at the accommodation, safe transport will be organised for them to return to their community.

Where is It located?

Supported quarantine accommodation will only be available at two designated sites:

- Lakeview Transitional Accommodation Centre in Port Augusta
- Emu Farm near Ceduna

Who is eligible for this accommodation?

To access the quarantine accommodation, people need to be residents of the designated communities and already displaced due to biosecurity restrictions. This supported accommodation is only available for people who have left their community prior to 6 June 2020, unless for urgent or unavoidable reasons.

How can people register or get more information?

People who need more information, or wish to access one of the quarantine accommodation options, should call the COVID-19 Relief Call Centre on 1300 705 336 or email housingrelief@sa.gov.au