

## **Tasmanians of all backgrounds working against COVID-19**

10 March 2020

The Nepali Society of Tasmania, a member of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, has confirmed that the man in his 20s who has tested positive to COVID-19 in Hobart is a member of the Tasmanian Nepalese community. The Nepali Society of Tasmania has released this statement (<https://www.facebook.com/NESTasmania/>) and are making no further comment at this time.

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania can be contacted for comment.

Note that the Multicultural Council of Tasmania has not had contact with either of the men in Tasmania who have tested positive to COVID-19 and do not have information on them.

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania has the following general comments:

- For many weeks hundreds of Tasmanians with a recent migrant background have been observing heightened hygiene practices and limiting their public activities. Many Tasmanians with a recent migrant background have been doing this despite having remained in Tasmania for years and being no more likely to contract COVID-19 than anyone else.
- Tasmanians of all backgrounds are disappointed whenever someone fails to follow medical advice to self-isolate between the time of testing for COVID-19 and receiving the test results.
- It is likely that those who fail to self-isolate between the time of testing and receipt of a positive result acknowledge and deeply regret the failure. We should not make matters worse by attacking those individuals as if they do not acknowledge and deeply regret their failures.
- Those who suspect they may have contracted COVID-19, even though their symptoms may be mild, and respond by seeking information and testing, are doing right by all Tasmanians.
- Any Tasmanian with health concerns should call the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline number 1800 671 738. General information about COVID-19 is available by calling 1800 020 080.
- Those who have been in contact with those Tasmanians who have tested positive to COVID-19 are in self-isolation. There is no case to discriminate against other Tasmanians.
- There is significant support amongst Tasmanians with a recent migrant background for government measures including travel bans. Other government measures may be warranted, including further travel bans, and measures with respect to the absence of sick leave for casual workers.
- We are all in this together, and we all care for the elderly and vulnerable.

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