

AROUND THE BAY

HOBSONS BAY WARD NEWS

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



To contact your local councillors, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Mayor-Councillors for all of their contact details.

A message from the Hobsons Bay Mayor and Councillors

We understand these past few weeks have been an incredibly challenging time for Hobsons Bay residents and their families. Since the Coronavirus pandemic started to become more serious, Council has been working hard to find meaningful ways to support our local people.

We want to support local businesses that have taken such an unprecedented hit and our hearts go out to the traders who are the lifeblood of our local economy. We are also thinking of our vulnerable communities who may not only be struggling for essential food and supplies but are also feeling isolated. Local sporting groups, community organisations and young families... absolutely everyone has had their lives upended by this pandemic and we are doing our best within our capacity to assist.

We'd like to thank our local health care workers, emergency service operators and all of those in our community who continue to work hard to provide essential services to our people. Please remember the four reasons to go out under Stage 3 restrictions, be kind to each other and stay safe.

HOW OUR ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE ADAPTING

A range of our services will continue as normal and some with various changes. We are committed to providing these services as long as possible, based on requirements from the federal and state governments.

- **Our face to face customer service** at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre in Altona is closed until further notice. However, you may still contact customer service by phone on 03 9932 1000 or by emailing customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au. Alternatively, you can live chat with one of our officers – just click on the link at the bottom of our website's homepage.
- **Immunisations** will continue and also increase but bookings will need to be made online at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/immunisation
- **Maternal and Child Health Services** (MCH) will be delivered via phone, Skype or video.
- **Meals on Wheels Food Services** will continue to deliver 'meals on wheels' to registered residents, combined with wellbeing checks and the provision of toilet paper for each client. Eligible new clients wanting to apply for meal delivery services will be fast tracked.

- It is anticipated Council's 18 **community-managed kinders** will continue teaching and caring for children, including the children of essential workers and vulnerable children, subject to health directions from the state and federal government. Similar to childcare, families will have the option to send their children to kinder for free during term two through a state government funding boost.
- **Pre-school field officers** will continue to provide support to kindergartens (provided kindergartens remain open)
- **Hobsons Bay UP** (Youth Services) will continue its youth counselling by video call or phone but will not proceed with face to face support services until further notice.
- **Aged Care and Disability Assessment Services** in-home assessments will continue as phone assessments.
- **Libraries** are altering services to provide 'Book a book' library home delivery service, access to electronic books from libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/collections and online storytime presented LIVE on the Hobsons Bay Libraries Facebook page.

- **All face to face community consultations** have been suspended however, there will be ample opportunity to have your say online via Participate Hobsons Bay (participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) and where possible we will conduct online consultation events
- **Planned Activity Group** (PAG), Community Transport and Overnight Respite for older residents have been suspended until further notice, however the team will continue to closely monitor and support our clients, or any vulnerable resident, with regular phone contact. If you know someone who is vulnerable and could use support, contact Council on 9932 1000 or at customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Services that are being suspended

- **All face to face Council-led events** and programs including our library, arts and community development events and activities have been cancelled
- **Early years playgroups** and Occasional Care provision have been suspended until further notice



RECYCLING 2.0 UPDATE

Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections will continue. Recyclables collected are still being sent to our contractors, who remain on the job of sorting and processing household recycling and waste.

Collections start from 5am

To keep staff safe, our contractors are staggering truck drivers' start times to enable effective social distancing. Please put your bins out by 5am, or the night before their scheduled collection day for the foreseeable future. If your street's bins aren't collected, leave your bins on the kerb and we will come to collect them in the following days, including Saturday.

Excess interim waste drop-off days

During these exceptional circumstances, Council is offering an interim waste drop-off service (a contactless, drive through system) for residents needing to dispose of additional waste at no extra charge.

Social distancing will be strictly enforced. We ask that residents use this service only if required.

Council sought advice from the state government, which deemed waste drop-offs an essential service in the current state of emergency. Medical advice also confirmed, the Recycling 2.0 kerbside system is as safe for our residents as the previous kerbside system. We encourage residents to follow all the same hygiene procedures with their bins as with any other surface, eg washing hands.

The drop-offs are on Saturdays, 8.30am to 2.30pm (until further notice) at Council's Operation Centre in Sugar Gum Drive, Altona. Visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Recycling

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PACKAGES

Council has released two community support packages to help the people of Hobsons Bay during the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. These packages focus on alleviating financial pressure on businesses, community groups and sporting clubs, as well as helping some of our most vulnerable residents. Just some of the highlights include:

Local businesses

- Full rental rebate until 30 June 2020 for eligible small business tenants paying rent in a Council-owned building
- Refund of food premises registration fees and outdoor trading permits already paid in 2019-20
- Interest free deferral of the next two quarterly rates payments for eligible local business
- Waived planning application fees for next six months for new start-ups
- Establishment of a business roundtable and crisis support mentoring network (listed above)

Email Council at business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Sporting clubs and community groups

- Full rental rebate until at least 30 June 2020 for eligible groups paying rent in a Council-owned building
- Waiver of winter ground allocation fees
- Financial assistance towards sporting club utility fees, eligibility applies.

To get in touch, email Council crichards@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Vulnerable communities

- Identifying more vulnerable households, while conducting wellbeing checks via phone
- Combined 'meals on wheels' delivery with wellbeing checks and toilet paper
- Eligible new clients applying for meal delivery services will be fast tracked
- Ongoing access to immunisation services via online bookings
- Syringe disposal kits distributed to planned activity group (PAG) clients
- Online new parent groups, playgroups and youth counselling.

Contact Council on 9932 1000 or at customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus for more on Council's community support packages