



COMMUNITY CONNECT



Informing and Connecting the Gawler Community

A LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR REDMAN

KAREN REDMAN



Welcome to the first edition of Council's Community Connect e-newsletter, a new way to keep our community informed and connected at this difficult time.

In a local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Gawler has implemented a new program aimed at providing information and connection to Gawler residents, in particular to elderly and vulnerable members of the community who may find themselves socially disconnected during these times.

This e-newsletter contains important community information and the latest Council updates which I hope you will enjoy.

OTHER NEWS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 2** Explaining the Restrictions
- Page 3** EHO Update
- Page 4** Rates deferral & Home Assist
- Page 5** Community Group update
- Page 6** Community Connect program
- Page 7** Gawler app
- Page 8** Library news
- Page 9** Helplines

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now stream Council meetings live, online via our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/TownofGawler



EXPLAINING THE RESTRICTIONS

WHY ARE RESTRICTIONS DIFFERENT IN EACH STATE?

Every Australian state has different laws, rules and regulations. That is why, for example, road rules and fines are slightly different in each state. When the Prime Minister is publicly talking about COVID-19 in a national press conference, his recommendations and advice should always be taken on board by the general public as they are vital in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, when the Prime Minister makes recommendations to the states about restriction guidelines relating to COVID-19, each state must then consider how those recommendations will be applied. They are not enforceable in South Australia until the State Coordinator, Commissioner Grant Stevens, enacts a Direction.

So, what rules and restrictions do South Australians have to follow?

In South Australia, when the State Coordinator, Commissioner Grant Stevens, enacts a Direction, it must be followed by everyone living in, and entering, South Australia. A Direction is a legal document and is enforceable by law. Various penalties apply for breaching a Direction. There are multiple Directions currently in place in South Australia. SAPOL publicly publish information about the Directions on their social media channels and the SA Police website. Information is also sent to media outlets. However, it can be easy to miss, so it is important that you take the time to familiarise yourself with the Directions.

You can find every current Direction in one place online;
covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations

You can also call the SA COVID-19 Information Line on **1800 253 787** between the hours of 8am to 8pm seven days a week.

The information above was taken from: www.police.sa.gov.au/covid-19-information/why-are-rules-and-restrictions-different-between-states



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS UPDATE

COVID-19 UPDATE



Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are responsible for carrying out measures for protecting public health, including administering and enforcing legislation related to food safety, public and environmental health, immunisation programs, supported residential facilities, and providing support to minimise health and safety hazards. EHOs are involved in a variety of activities which include inspecting food businesses, auditing food safety programs, investigating public health nuisances, and implementing disease control. EHOs commonly focus on prevention, consultation, investigation and education of the community regarding health risks and maintaining a safe environment. Council's EHOs have been working hard to protect the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Australian Councils, including the Town of Gawler, were formally directed to assist SAPOL in monitoring activities as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Management Directions in order to ensure that members of the public comply, and that social distancing measures are adhered to, as directed by the State Coordinator. Council moved swiftly to authorise Council's Environmental Health Officers to work in neighbouring districts to provide greater capacity in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like more information about Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please call our Customer Service team on **8522 9211**, or head to our website <https://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/about-gawler/latest-news/covid-19> for the latest news and updates.



COVIDSAFE APP

The Federal Government has released a new app, named COVIDSafe, to help find and fight the virus. It is available to download on the App Store and on Google Play.

The COVIDSafe app is free, completely voluntary and can be deleted from your phone at any time.

To find out more about COVIDSafe, visit <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>

RELIEF TO AFFECTED RATEPAYERS

DEFERRAL OF RATES DUE TO COVID-19

Council is aware of the significant financial impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the community and is ready to assist those who have been affected.

If you are a ratepayer who has become unemployed or underemployed, or if you are a business that is in financial hardship, you can now apply to have your rates payments deferred, without financial penalty, for 6 months. Council will also not be applying any non-payment fines or interest against any ratepayer during this 6 month period, expiring at the end of September 2020.

If you would like more information about the deferral of rates, please call our Customer Service team on **8522 9211**, or visit our website <https://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/about-gawler/latest-news/deferral-of-rates-application-form-due-to-covid-19> for information and an application form.

HOME ASSIST UPDATE

The Gawler Home Assist Program is working hard to help those most vulnerable in our community to maintain their own health, safety and wellbeing within their home environment.

Many of Gawler's older residents are self-isolating during these uncertain times and need advice on what services are still available for them. Residents aged 65 years and over (and Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders aged 50 years and over) who find it difficult to live without support in their own home can register with our Home Assist Program to receive support services. These services can include assistance with domestic chores, shopping, home maintenance or modifications.

For those residents already a part of the Home Assist Program, our friendly staff at Town of Gawler are busy making welfare check phone calls to you. If at any time you would like to speak to one of our Gawler Home Assist Team members, or have an enquiry, please call **8522 1177** or email chsp@gawler.sa.gov.au



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

UCARE GAWLER

UCare Gawler urgently requires a range of items to give away to families and individuals in need. Items include:

- Non-perishables – canned foods, pasta, pasta sauce, etc.
- Men's toiletries
- Socks and jocks
- Towels
- Reusable bags for food parcels



UCare is located at 10 Tod St, Gawler, and open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 3.00pm (but donations can be received from 8.00am). For more information, please contact UCare on **8522 4522**.



ZONTA'S GIANT BOOK GIVEAWAY

Free books for children aged 0 – 12

The Zonta Club of Gawler, in partnership with the Town of Gawler, is continuing with its Giant Book Giveaway! This is a Zonta early literacy initiative, with books being distributed via Council's Community Connect Program. There are lots of books available for pre-schoolers, early readers and more advanced readers.

If you know of children in the Gawler community who would love some free books to keep, please call **8522 9295** or email communityconnect@gawler.sa.gov.au to arrange collection.

COMMUNITY CONNECT PROGRAM

INFORMING AND CONNECTING THE GAWLER COMMUNITY

Council's Community Connect Program aims to provide information and connection to the Gawler community, in particular to older and vulnerable people, who may find themselves socially disconnected or isolated during these uncertain times.

Council is liaising with individuals, local groups and organisations to ensure that they remain connected, are able to access accurate and timely information and advice, and receive practical assistance where needed.

In the first three full weeks of the program from 1 April 2020, the Community Connect program saw the following community engagement:

- 12 Ongoing Community Connect Clients
- 67 One-off Community Connect Clients
- 276 Interactions/Communications in the provision of service delivery to program clients (ongoing and one-off)
- 1415 minutes (23.6 hours) spent on Interactions/Communications in the provision of service delivery to program clients (ongoing and one-off).

Community members have engaged with the Community Connect program for a number of reasons, including isolation and social disconnection, inability to access shopping or other services, homelessness, and lack of awareness of local programs able to provide additional support.

There have been a number of significant and immediate positive outcomes for community members who have engaged with the Community Connect program, and many have been linked to programs and services that will provide ongoing benefits to them, including Gawler Home Assist, Gawler Public Library and U-Care.

If you, or someone you know, requires information or practical assistance, contact Community Connect via the following avenues:

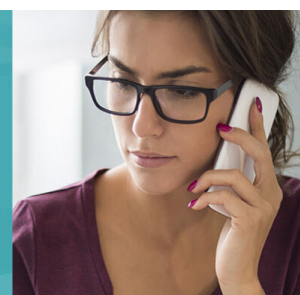
Phone: 8522 9295

Email: communityconnect@gawler.sa.gov.au

Online: www.gawler.sa.gov.au/communityconnect



COMMUNITY
CONNECT



GAWLER APP

This app provides on-demand access to information about Gawler, including latest news and events, as well as Council and its services.

The app is also an online shop for food outlets, retail businesses, professional services, accommodation and venue hire within Gawler.

Install the Gawler Connected Community app to shop locally while rewarding yourself every time. There's no cash required, no minimum order value and all credit cards are accepted.

Download now via the App Store or Google Play



Gawler | 

The FREE Gawler Connected Community app lets you...

- Order ahead**
- Support local businesses**
- Go cashless**
- Get rewarded**
- Stay up to date with all things 'Gawler'**

Available on the App Store and Google Play



With the Gawler Connected Community app you can shop from your local favourites from the convenience of your own home. You can also earn stamps and redeem discount vouchers.



Follow these simple steps

1. Tap on the **Shop** tile on the home screen
2. Select the **Shop**
3. Browse the shop's menu and check out their offers from the loyalty tab
4. Don't forget to apply the voucher at checkout

When you've made payment, the store will let you know when your item is ready for pick up.

If the store has a stamp card, you'll automatically earn a stamp for each applicable item you purchase!

We're adding more shops and more offers every week, so keep checking in and help us

#supportlocal

STAY UP TO DATE

For up-to-date information regarding the South Australian COVID-19 response and restrictions, go to: <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/> or call the dedicated SA information line from 8am to 8pm, seven days per week on **1800 253 787**.

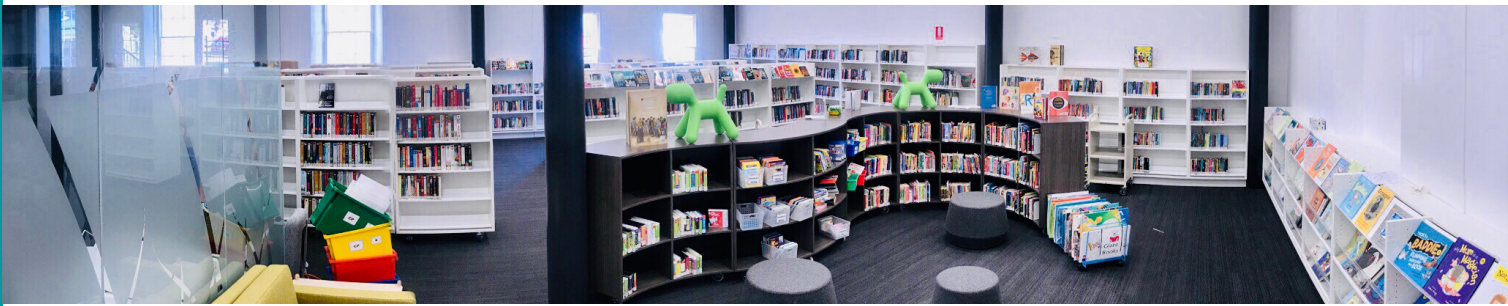
GAWLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Although the doors are closed, Library staff are here to help!

Both the Gawler Civic Centre Library and the Evanston Gardens Library are offering a **Call and Collect** service, where you can call the library to arrange a time to pick up your favourite books, DVDs, CDs, magazines and audiobooks.

If you are unable to collect your items from the Library and live within the Gawler Council area, we can deliver them to your home with our contact-free **Drop and Wave** service.

If you need to return your library items, the after-hours returns chute at the Gawler Civic Centre is available as normal. Call us at Gawler on **8522 9213** or Evanston Gardens on **8522 0123** for more information about any of our services.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



THE QUARANTINE PROJECT

The Quarantine Project is a social hub run by local young people to take crash courses on various topics, watch live interviews with professionals, and join in online social activities with other young people. You can also watch back what has already taken place, for example, you can view crash courses on Bleach Tie-Dye or Making Earrings, or view the Expert Hour with Brendan Teys from the Adelaide 36ers.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheQuarantineProjectSA/>



PLAYGROUPS SA

Playgroups SA are facilitating happy, enriching and educational experiences for families and young children by providing an accessible network of playgroup services online.

<https://www.facebook.com/playgroupsa/>

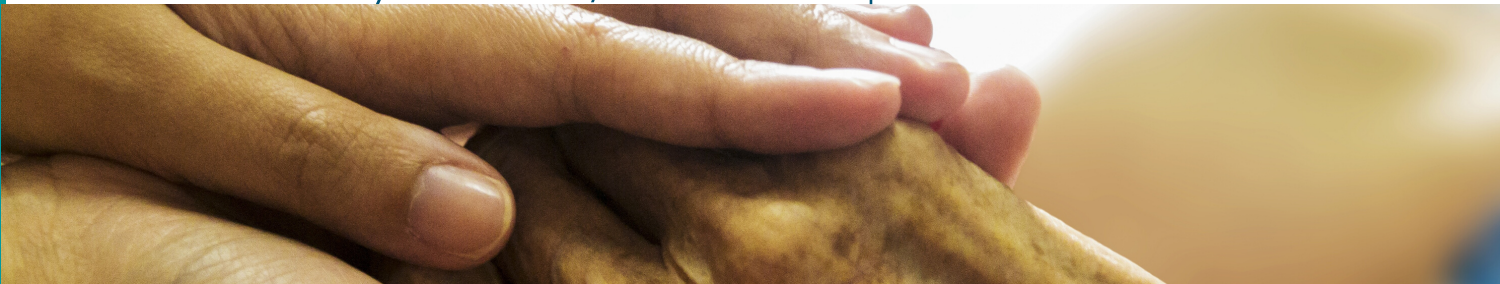


EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

Anyone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, or those supporting them, can call the SA Homelessness Gateway Service on **1800 003 308** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) to be connected to local services and emergency accommodation. This service is coordinated by the SA Housing Authority who will assess the needs of an individual or family and then work to find the best option to suit those needs.

For more information, email housingrelief@sa.gov.au or call the COVID-19 Relief Call Centre on **1300 705 336**.

Any member of the community is welcome to access a community dedicated phone at the Gawler Administration Centre (43 High Street, Gawler East) to make contact with the Homelessness Gateway Service and/or other service providers.



HELP LINES

BEYOND BLUE

1300 22 4636

Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.

COVID SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

1800 171 866

LIFELINE

13 11 14

HEADSPACE

1800 063 267

1800 RESPECT

1800 737 732

- 1800RESPECT will continue to operate as per usual during the COVID-19 health emergency. They are open 24 hours every day to support people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence or abuse.
- NRS: 1800 555 677 Interpreter: 13 14 50

MENSLINE

1300 78 99 78

KIDS HEALTH

1800 55 1800