

# Position Statement

HorsePower Australia previously known as  
Riding for the Disabled Association of Western Australia.



## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

HorsePower Australia is closely monitoring the advice of State and Federal Governments regarding the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. At this current time there is no restriction on HorsePower Australia Centres operating. The advice from Governments at this time is for individuals to practise good hygiene, social distancing and to stay home if feeling unwell.

The health and safety of our community is our priority. Whilst we want to continue to provide continuity of support to our participants, there are precautions we must take to ensure the health and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and participants, many of whom fall into vulnerable groups including seniors, people with compromised immune systems and those with chronic medical conditions. With this in mind we encourage all HorsePower Australia centres to consider the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitisers
- Clean and disinfect surfaces between participants i.e. wiping tack and toys used in programs between sessions
- Practise good hygiene
  - Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
  - Disposing of tissues properly
- Advise participants, volunteers and staff if they are unwell, to please let you know and stay home
- Consider if participants and volunteers with compromised immunity should be advised to not attend sessions until further notice for their own safety
- Have a clear communication plan in place to communicate with participants and volunteers should day to day operations need to be suspended.
- Have an equine welfare plan in place to ensure continued care is in place for equines should the centre need to suspend day to day operations.
- Any participants, volunteers or staff who have returned from overseas need to abide by the self-isolation period in place and stay away from HorsePower Centres for at least 14 days.
- Understand what your obligations are in relation to any paid employees.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that causes respiratory illness in humans with symptoms including shortness of breath or cough, with or without fever. In some cases, the virus can cause severe pneumonia. The Australian Government's [Department of Health](#) website provides up-to-date information about COVID-19, including advice on how to protect yourself and your family as well as information about how and when to get tested.

While HorsePower Australia is currently not advising centres to suspend programs we are reviewing the situation daily and, in partnership with our centres, reviewing their individual situations and will take the necessary precautions to keep volunteers, staff and participants safe.