

# The NT, the safest place in Australia.

**Number of pandemic coronavirus cases per 100,000 population for each state and territory**

Northern Territory	10.9
Western Australia	19.9
Queensland	20
Victoria	20.6
Australian Capital Territory	24.9
South Australia	25
Tasmania	33.1
New South Wales	36.3

Source: The Courier Mail, 18 April 2020

Today (30 April 2020) the Northern Territory's (NT) official position on COVID-19 is 28 cases recorded in total, 25 people have recovered, and 3 active cases remain. No new cases have been recorded for the past 17 days.

Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Paul Kelly, says the NT is in an 'enviable position' in the fight against coronavirus compared with the rest of the country (The NT News, 23/4/20).

As of 30 April 2020, the Northern Territory has announced the roadmap to return to normal life. These can be found online at [Secure NT](#), with a summary shown below.



In Darwin we are very fortunate, at this time of year, the temperatures in the southern states are dropping as they head into winter. In Darwin, we have a climate similar to many of our Asian neighbours with a wet and dry season. We are heading into the dry season, which is regarded as the best time of year to be in Darwin. Thankfully, due to our low number of COVID-19, and no community transmissions, the government has announced the first major easing of restrictions and as of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, we will be able to camp, swim and hike in some of our well-known parks, including Litchfield National Park.



During COVID-19, Charles Darwin University (CDU) has been working closely with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to ensure the health and safety of our students, our staff and other stakeholders.

In line with NTG recommendations, CDU has successfully transitioned most of the staff to work from home.

CDU also transitioned most of our students into an e-learning environment. This transition was relatively simple because CDU has been offering e-learning options for 20 years. CDU already had around 70% of its higher education units online, so transitioning our international students into an online environment was relatively straight forward.

*“The transition to online learning was a little confusing at first, but once I learnt where everything was, it is very easy. There is also lots of online functions that we didn’t know about before that are really helpful for learning. [Vicky Liu – Master of Professional Accounting Student](#)”*

Transitioning is one thing; supporting students in an e-learning environment is another. But, all of the support options available to our international students on campus are also available online. The Academic Language and Learning Success Program (ALLSP), Equity Services, International Student Support and Library already had online options for assistance. We have students in Darwin, Alice Springs (1500 km's from Darwin) and Sydney (nearly 4,000km's from Darwin), CDU's support for our students has always been available by distance or face-to-face. Equity Services have also created a “Stay Connected” video, supporting students in this time of COVID-19: <https://youtu.be/DMJw6A7sJjc>. More support available to students can be found [online](#).

Still, there is always more that can be done; this is an initiative from the ALLSP team called the "Chance to Chat". The Chance to Chat provides an opportunity for international students to maintain connections and gain opportunities to speak in English. Hosted by [Ellie Keegan](#) “A Chance to Chat” takes place on Blackboard Collaborate (the e-learning system) every Wednesday from 13:00-14:00 (ACST). Our students are encouraged to stay connected, share their stories and keep practicing their English. Learn More: <https://www.facebook.com/events/507531993258519/>

CDU and the local community have worked together and rallied to support those disadvantaged by COVID-19. A range of support is available for students including financial assistance, counselling and assistance with accommodation.

CDU also provided a COVID-19 Student Assistance grant to support students experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19. The funding was intended to enable students to continue their studies and to alleviate immediate hardship. [For more information on how we are supporting our students, please visit our website.](#)

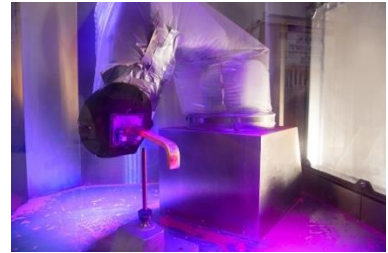
Kindness Shake has been born out of COVID-19. "The #KindnessShake (KS): <https://www.facebook.com/KindnessShakeNT/> is a community-led initiative that aims to provide free, pre-made meals each Friday evening from CDU’s main campus in Casuarina, Darwin. The project is a

collaborative effort between CDU and local businesses, led by Benjamin Poveda Alfonso, former CDU International Student and current CDU Global International Support Officer.



Who would have thought, but from these difficult and uncertain times, innovation is still at the forefront of CDU's activities? CDU's Medical Laboratory Science students worked to address the current shortage of hand sanitiser while raising money to help people in need in the Northern Territory.

CDU and SPEE3D partnered to use 3D printing technology to coat door handles with copper in high traffic areas as a possible solution to help reduce the viability of viruses such as COVID-19. With many more good news stories: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/news>.



All in all, we are fortunate to be in a safe position with limited cases of coronavirus. However, one message is clear; the preventative measures that have been undertaken to keep the NT safe will remain for now. With a silver lining, "We can work together to allow adjustments to controls to return to our territory way of life incrementally." (The NT News, 23/4/20).