

EMBARGO
Thursday 9 July 2020

Peak health body says Queensland deserves top marks for Covid-19 response

The AMA Queensland President says the state should be proud of its response to Covid-19 and Queensland Government leaders applauded for their work in helping keep people safe over the past four months.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing close to 10-thousand medical practitioners across the state.

Dr Chris Perry, who took over as AMA Queensland President in the middle of the pandemic, says with the borders opening tomorrow, it's timely to reflect on the way the State Government and health professionals have worked together to limit the effects of Covid-19 in Queensland.

"While we are not out of the woods entirely, I applaud the Health Minister, the Chief Health Officer and the Premier for the work they have done in ensuring that Covid-19 has not become a bigger health challenge for us all", he said.

"It's been inspiring to see all members of the health community work closely and collaboratively alongside government to keep Queenslanders safe."

Dr Perry said that contact tracing in Queensland had been particularly effective in limiting infections and thereby easing the work load for Queensland doctors and allied health professionals.

"While we really feel for our medical counterparts and the wider community in Victoria, AMA Queensland is happy that the hard work to get Queensland virtually Covid-19 free, means that life will slowly return to some semblance of normality.

"Many of our members have been directly affected by Covid-19 with surgery on hold and many people fearing to attend their local GP.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, AMA Queensland and the Federal Secretariat have focussed on supporting GPs in the front line of the response.

"We must also remember that as part of the frontline response they need adequate PPE – something that they were initially denied during this pandemic. This is a great learning for the future.

"We hope people remain vigilant about washing hands and social distancing to avoid any future spikes in infection in Queensland.

"This is particularly important in the south east corner of Queensland where the majority of cases were reported."

MEDIA CONTACTS: Fran Metcalf, Sequel PR – 0417 627 867 Gabrielle Corser, AMA Queensland – 0419 735 641