Issue by Group	Category
Central	
s22(1) [redacted]	
• Borroloola - s22(1) [redacted] (managed by s22(1) [redacted]) had started to run short of goods due to community members receiving $750 income stimulus money and using that money to at the store. The Store was able to re-stock shelves and return to normal levels within the same day.	Essential Services/travel
• Wadeye - Record sales at store on Tuesday and Wednesday. s22(1) [redacted] turnovers both days.	Essential Services/travel
s22(1) [redacted]	

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s22(1)

Category	WEST AND SOUTH
s22(1)	
Family Security (inc. Community well-being)	s22(1) • **PIR1a/PIR2:** In Coober Pedy the release of the Government's Economic Support Payment of $750 has been received in some bank accounts. s47E(d) There are also concerns about the impact of food availability in the APY Lands. NIAA has asked s22(1) to advise of any changes/issues. s22(1)

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s22(1)

Heading	Central

s22(1)

Food Security	s22(1) • **NT – Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala –** s22(1) is currently at 25% above normal stock levels. Currently, in the process of onboarding more staff to assist with an increase in demand. Spike in sales since Monday (assumed due to Economic Support payment). s22(1)

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Heading	Central
	s22(1) Stocks of sanitiser is back to normal stock levels. s22(1) • s22(1) • **NT – Milikapiti –** s22(1) – three weeks supply. Stock levels maintained during $750 payment this week. Weekly barge for all departments. Main supplier is s22(1) Reported hand sanitiser is not available. s22(1)

s22(1)

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Heading	Central
s22(1)	
Social Distancing PIR4	s22(1) • s22(1), s47E(d) s22(1) • **NT – Tiwi Islands –** s22(1) Stores are experiencing a spike in trading with the $750 stimulus payment and increased welfare benefits made available this week. s22(1) s22(1)

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Heading	Update
	s22(1)
s22(1) Working Group	s22(1) • $750 income support payment continues to cause significant issues. Substantial numbers of people have moved into all regional centres in the NT. People are buying more food and necessities leading to minor shortages in NT remote communities and Oak Valley, SA. Shortages are manageable for now. s22(1)

s22(1)

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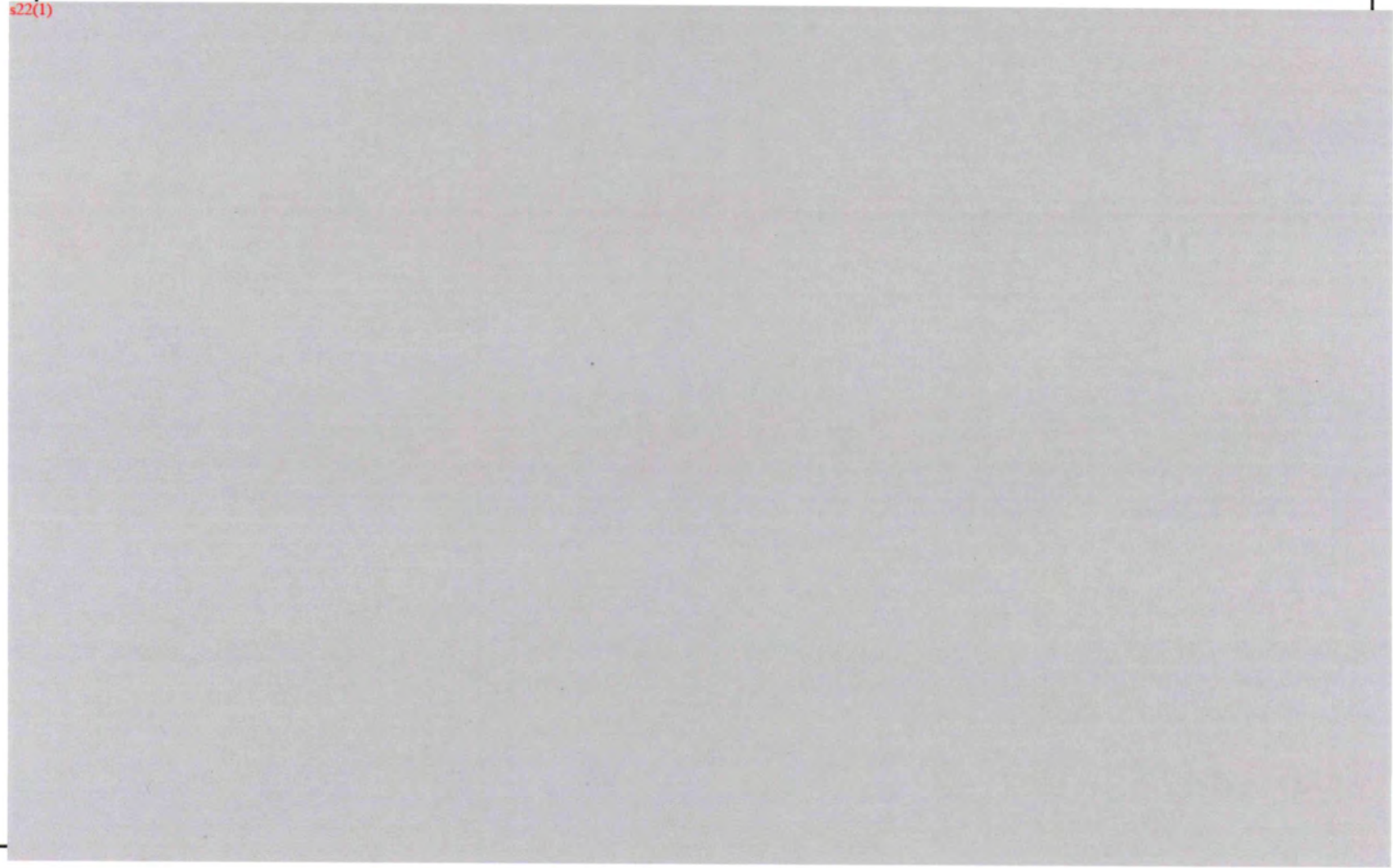
	Eastern
Food Security	• **Far North Queensland (General) – No food security issues reported** by s22(1) . Air, road and barge supplies still arriving. Some community stores experienced higher than usual demand on supplies for a few days due to stimulus payments received by community members but have since restocked supplies to normal levels (e.g. s47E(d)).

s22(1)



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Category	West and South
Food Security	• **Jigalong -** Store has seen a marked **increased spending.** For the week ending 3 April, takings of s22(1) were reported – this includes a s22(1) purchase order of s22(1) **for food and fuel;** s22(1) **was reported as being spent on tobacco products.** s22(1) suggests this can be attributed to the increase in the Jobseeker payment and **$750 stimulus.**
s22(1)	s22(1)

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NIAA ACTIONS AND MEETINGS

	Update
s22(1)	s22(1)
s22(1) Working Group	s22(1) • s22 2(remains focused on food security, and are in contact with Minister Wyatt regarding a food shortage roundtable. ○ s22(1) ○ ○ Down to around 2 weeks supply in some locations (pressures relating to more people in communities, the $750 payment, less access to wholesale goods, and the high costs related to freights). ○ s22(1)

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Regional and community update

s22(1)

	Central
Food Security	s22(1) • **Tiwi Islands/Wurrumiyanga** – s22(1) has 3 week's supplies with three barges supplying 3 times a week. **Whitegoods** and **Manchester** have **sold out** due to customers spending their **$750 Coronavirus supplement.** s22(1) • s22(1) • **Tiwi Islands/Milikapiti** – s22(1) is experiencing stock shortages due to residents spending their $750 Centrelink and s22(1) workers received $1500 this week.
	Eastern

s22(1)

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	Update
	s22(1) [redacted]
s22(1) Working Group	Key issues from meeting on 8 April • s22(1) [redacted] • There has been **no panic buying, but weekly sales have increased by between 150 and 350 per cent on previous year**, and there were huge sales on the day of the stimulus payment. This along with reduced supply have depleted stores' stock reserves. • **Unless stores can significantly increase stock levels before the next stimulus payment, stores will run out many stock items and people will travel into regional centres to shop**. This is a significant risk to keeping COVID-19 out of communities. • s22(1) [redacted]

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	s22(1) [redacted]
PIR 2 Community Wellbeing	• **Western Desert communities** - There have been reports of people in using the **$750** COVID-19 supplement funds on alcohol. This necessitates travelling into the nearest town (s47E(d) [redacted]). To mitigate these risks, communities are limiting fuel purchases. • s22(1) [redacted]

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Group Manager & Regional Manager Updates

s22(1)

Eastern - GM

- s22(1)
-
- s22(1) which manages five s22(supermarkets in very remote locations in Queensland, has reported state and Commonwealth efforts have had a positive impact. Through s22(1) we understand stock availability has improved from 35 per cent to 81 per cent capacity. This will help offset the anticipated increase in demand on some s22(stores when the fortnightly Coronavirus supplement of $550 is paid to eligible welfare payment recipients, such as those on JobSeeker, from 27 April.

s22(1)

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	• VIS/TAS: s22(1) advised that the organisation has been providing additional food parcels using the $15,000 COVID-19 support payment.

s22(1)

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NIAA ACTIONS AND MEETINGS

	Update
s22(1)	[redacted]
Regional Managers' Teleconference	• Eastern - NSW are reporting that s22(employees are leaving as stimulus package pays more s22(1) [redacted]

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4. s22(1) [redacted]

5. Updates from the s22(1) [redacted] meetings this week included:

   - s22(1) [redacted] continues to see improvements in supply due to collaboration by industry. Reports of substantial increases in availability of flour. Overall value of purchases is up by around 30% in light of increased welfare payments. s22(1) [redacted]

6. s22(1) [redacted]

7. s22(1) [redacted]

s11C [redacted]
Group Manager
COVID-19 Coordination Group
4 May 2020

Policy Officer: s22(1) [redacted]
Phone no: s22(1) [redacted]
Consultation: Nil

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NIAA ACTIONS AND MEETINGS

s22(1) **Working Group** **30 April 2020**	• NIAA updated s22(1) on food supply situation in remote; thanked industry on line for collaboration in improving supply to remote, including substantial donations of flour. Early reporting indicated purchases were up by around 50% this week with increase in welfare payments; reasonable levels of stock in store and confident that they can absorb current levels. Sustained increased demand for flour; thanks again to all on line for support on flour; will need to keep a careful eye on this and other staples over next period. s22(1)

s22(1)

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- s22(1)
- [redacted]

Other issues

- s22(1)
- [redacted]
- Central has increased movement with stimulus packages and cash withdrawals being made at stores and no food being purchased
- s22(1)
- [redacted]

s22(1)

[redacted]

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Food security

- s22(1) [redacted]
- Following significant collaboration across the sector over the last weeks, supply to remote community stores has improved. Key staples (wheat, rice, canned vegetables and meats) and cleaning products remain a concern, as does supply to small, independent stores. Suppliers, major retailers and community store management companies are keen to assist where problems are brought to their attention.
- The increase in welfare payments (over the last two weeks from end-April) has seen a significant increase in demand for food and also for general merchandise and tobacco. Notwithstanding this, stores are reporting reasonable stock levels and remain confident provided supply lines hold.
- s22(1) [redacted]

s22(1) [redacted]

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

s22(1)

- s22(1)
- s22(1)
- s22(1)
- **Robinson River -** Community members are purchasing hardware and household goods, both s22(1) have advised they have been very busy due to the stimulus money. We have noticed that Borroloola has become cashless.
- s22(1)

s22(1)

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NIAA Actions and Meetings

NIAA RM Telecon	• s22(1)
20 May 2020	• Food Security update provided, including that community stores are experiencing double and sometimes triple the turnover with the stimulus payment and early access to superannuation. Despite this stores are reporting a good level of supplies however there are some items that are difficult to resource. Flour has been donated and is being distributed to remote store locations
	s22(1)
	• s47E(d) issues with superannuation and feedback around concerns about incorrect information being provided on the forms could result in overpayments. s47E(d)
	• Emergence of loan sharks, car sales (s47E(d)) and mobile plan selling to capitalise on stimulus and superannuation payments (NT)
	s22(1)

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NIAA Actions and Meetings

NIAA RM Telecon 20 May 2020	**(Contd.)** s22(1) [redacted] • s47E(d) issues with superannuation and feedback around concerns about incorrect information being provided on the forms could result in overpayments. s47E(d) [redacted] • Emergence of loan sharks, car sales (s47E(d)) and mobile plan selling to capitalise on stimulus and superannuation payments (NT) s22(1) [redacted]

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

- **SA** – SA NIAA have become aware of an increased number of [redacted] in the Port Adelaide area (20 plus), without stable accommodation. It is believed that these people are mainly from Western APY Lands communities ([redacted]), travelling to Adelaide to access services and goods. [redacted] Others in the group have travelled to Adelaide to spend extra Social Security money or monies accessed from superannuation on vehicles and other goods. [redacted]
- [redacted]

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted] – There are reports of people being pressured to access their superannuation despite not being eligible. [redacted]

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- s47E(d) – Early access to Super – COVID-19 superannuation measures have become an issue for s22(1) Eligibility is open to anyone unemployed, which has inundated s22(1) service. Many remote Indigenous people view their super as a potential immediate resource (which has always been an issue for financial inclusion programs), and the

COVID-19 measures have greatly exacerbated this thinking.

- [redacted] – Early access to Super – Some community members have expressed concern that early access to superannuation will result in a debt to the government with the monies needing to be repaid, suggesting a need for improved messaging.
- [redacted] – Early Access Superannuation - [redacted] report, employees and community members have sought assistance in obtaining their tax files number, with the intention to receive the 'Early Access Superannuation'. It is unknown how many community members have processed their claims.
- [redacted]
- [redacted] – Early Access Super – [redacted] reports approx. 30 clients a day are enquiring about their eligibility for COVID-19 early release of super. To date, they have assisted around 40 client applications on hardship grounds. Few of their clients have the maximum amount, with most around the $3000 level. [redacted]
- [redacted]
- ...

Regional Updates: Priority information

[redacted]

CENTRAL
GM UPDATES

Community consumption

Spending money in community has jumped as a result of increased welfare payments and travel restrictions reducing people's ability to buy out of community, however a trend has emerged that the additional money in communities will have limited additional benefit, with increased revenue for community owned stores seen as the only clear good news story. A trend of unintended consequences in some communities has emerged, with increased expenditure on items such as drugs and alcohol and gambling.

[redacted]

There is also high demand for early access to superannuation for large discretionary purchases. [redacted]

[redacted]

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

- [redacted]

This includes reports that some community members have accessed superannuation, under the relaxed provisions, with payments of $10k recently made, and another $10k payment due on 1 July. The influx of funds (over and above the increased Job Seeker payment) is thought to be linked to the increase of alcohol in the community. [redacted]

- [redacted]

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– Early Access Superannuation (Update) – Anecdotal feedback from indicates some people are resigning from their jobs in order to apply for the early super access

NIAA Actions and Meetings

s22(1)

COVID-19 RM telecon meeting 27 May 2020

- s22(1)
- Food security update
  - s22(1)
  - Early access to superannuation and royalty payment plus the income supplement payments means the stores have enjoyed an upturn in their economic prosperity
  - s22(1)

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NIAA Actions and Meetings

s22(1)

[redacted]

COVID-19 RM telecon meeting 27 May 2020

- Food security update
  - s22(1)
  - Early access to superannuation and royalty payment plus the income supplement payments means the stores have enjoyed an upturn in their economic prosperity
  - s22(1)

[redacted]

s22(1)

[redacted]

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

- TETI/[redacted] – There is a **car buying frenzy** taking place at [redacted] and [redacted]. Funds associated with the release of **Superannuation money** is being used **to purchase cheap and overpriced cars**.

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

[redacted]

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South & West
PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Central
PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Eastern
PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

s22(1)

- **TETI**/s47E(d) - At a meeting with s22(1) on 27 May they said that **Superannuation enquiries** and help in processing them was taking up most of their time. Have **processed 130 claims**. Each claim takes about 1 hour. s22(1) said the whole process starts again on 1 July. s22(1) informs all applicants that Superannuation claims are the client's own money and not part of government welfare support..

s22(1)

s22(1)

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Regional Updates: Priority information

CENTRAL
GM UPDATES

01 June 2020

s22(1)

Movement to Homelands and Outstations

There were reports of people moving to Homelands at the onset of the pandemic and most have since returned to communities. At the onset people were motivated by health concerns about COVID-19 and overcrowding as a consequence of increased populations resulted from people returning to community as part of the biosecurity response. These concerns have since subsided and the limited infrastructure, additional stimulus payments and the need to access services have drawn people back to community.

s22(1)

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

- s7(1)
- s47E(d)
- s22(1) The influx of welfare payments and superannuation has had a big impact on school attendance.
- s22(1)

South & West

PIR 3 Travel Restrictions

Central

PIR 3 Travel Restrictions

Eastern

PIR 3 Travel Restrictions

s22(1)

[redacted]

- s47E(d) - Anecdotal advice and observation from s22(1) is many people have made their way to Darwin. As mentioned in an earlier report, the purchase of cheap cars with funds from superannuation is a driver for some.
- [redacted]

s22(1)

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South & West

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Central

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

Eastern

PIR 2 Community Wellbeing

s22(1)

s47E(d) s22(1)

s22(1)

s22(1)

TETI/NT wide – s22(1) reported Territorians are accessing their retirement/superannuation funds at a proportionately higher rate than elsewhere in the country. It reported over 26,000 Territorians had drawn approximately $215million from superannuation.

s22(1)

ALGE/ s47E(d) **– Community members are travelling into Darwin to purchase motor vehicles with reports indicating the money is coming from superannuation.**

s22(1)

s22(1)

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s22(1)

- **ALGE** s47E(d) – s22(1) –
  Community artists are now more reliant on Centrelink payments due to the decline in Art sales. Artists had advised the s22(1) when the COVID-19 supplements payments cease they will struggle to support their families.
- s22(1)
- **Central** - The NIAA have been advised by s22(1) they continue to hold concerns around the early access of superannuation s22(1) advise although there is financial management training being delivered on the ground, the additional money is reportedly being spent on new (replacement) cars s47E(d)
- s22(1)

- s22(1) [redacted]

Impact of COVID-19 on APY Lands communities

- On 26 March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the APY Lands was declared a Designated Area under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. This enacted additional restrictions in addition to Australian and SA Government restrictions and guidelines in relation to travel, gatherings, hygiene and social distancing and school closures. This had a significant impact on both school attendance and the delivery of the RSAS in the APY Lands.
- Due to the range of COVID-19 restrictions (i.e. travel, social distancing, and restrictions on group activities and engagement with families and the community) s22(1) [redacted] delivery of the RSAS was significantly impacted – particularly during the 5 ½ weeks of school closure at the end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 2.
- In Term 2, s22(1) [redacted] reported s22(1) [redacted]. NIAA also received anecdotal reports that there were very few families in community. This information was corroborated by s22(1) [redacted] and s22(1) [redacted] workers.
- Many families received additional payments from Centrelink and travelled to Alice Springs, Port Augusta and Adelaide to buy warm clothes, shoes and other items for their families. As a result, many families remained outside of the APY Lands for extended periods due to quarantining requirements.
- s22(1) [redacted]
- s22(1) [redacted]
- s22(1) [redacted]

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