



Companion Card *Catch Up*

February 2021

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To receive *Catch Up* by email call us on 1800 893 044 or email info.companioncard@fac.s.nsw.gov.au



Welcome to the first issue of *Catch Up* for 2021

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout has commenced, venues are open and events are back.

There is much to look forward to in 2021.

Happy New Year to those who celebrate the Lunar New Year. Welcome to the year of the Ox.



COVID-19 Vaccine

Australia's COVID-19 vaccines will become available in phases.

Identified priority groups will get the first available safe and effective doses of vaccines.

Priority groups have been identified using public health, medical and epidemiological evidence. This includes people that would be at higher risk of serious illness if they contracted COVID-19, and those most likely to be exposed to it.

NSW Health is working closely with the Australian Government to plan and implement a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination program in NSW.

COVID-19 vaccine national rollout phases

Phase 1a

Residents and staff in disability and aged care residential facilities. As well as quarantine, border and front line health care workers

Phase 1b

Will be for people with disability and those with an underlying medical condition. As well as elderly adults over 70 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 55 years of age.

Phase 2a

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the age range of 18 - 54 years and other adults aged over 50 years.

Phase 2b

The balance of adult population and any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases.

**Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.
If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.**





1st to 12th April 2021

After being cancelled last year the Sydney Royal Easter Show is back this April at the Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park.

After a challenging year, the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) is looking forward to bringing you a safe event that once again celebrates NSW heritage - from rural traditions to modern-day lifestyles. The RAS is working closely with NSW Health to ensure the 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show is compliant with all COVIDSafe requirements as directed.

For Companion Card tickets call the Show Call Centre on 9704 1000.

Football returns in 2021

After a limited season last year all footy codes are up and running in 2021. Kicking off on 11th March is the NRL and 18th March for the AFL season.



<https://tickets.nrl.com/>



<https://www.afl.com.au/tickets>

Seasons that have already commenced

- **Woman's AFL** <https://womens.afl/matches/2021>
- **W -League women's soccer** <https://www.w-league.com.au/tickets>
- **A-League men's soccer** <https://www.a-league.com.au/tickets>
- **Super Rugby** <https://super.rugby/superrugby/>

To purchase tickets go to the ticket agency for the ground you want to attend.

Theatre for kids

Over the coming months all across NSW there are lots of plays and shows to see, many have been rescheduled from 2020.

To book call the theatre near you.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

14 April | Cessnock Performing Arts Centre
16 - 17 April | Sydney Coliseum Theatre, Rooty Hill
21 - 22 May | Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
25 - 26 May | Capital Theatre, Tamworth



The Midnight Gang

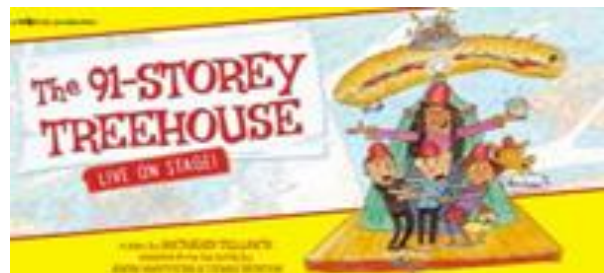
18 – 19 March | Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith
23 – 24 March | Dubbo Regional Theatre & Convention Centre*
26 – 27 March | Capital Theatre, Tamworth
30 March | Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
16 - 18 April | The Concourse, Chatswood
14 May | Griffith Regional Theatre
30 June - 1 July | Illawarra Performing Arts Centre*



* Dates include Relaxed Performances click for details.

The 91 Storey Treehouse

12 March 2021 | Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
24 March - 26 March 2021 | Riverside Theatre, Parramatta
29 March 2021 | Orange Civic Theatre
7 - 11 April 2021 | Seymour Centre - Everest Theatre, Darlington



Magic Beach

12 – 13 April 2021 | Joan Sutherland
Performing Arts Centre, Penrith
20 - 22 April 2021 | Riverside Theatre,
Parramatta 10 - 11 May 2021 | The Art
House, Wyong



The Gruffalo's Child

27 March 2021 | Sydney Coliseum
Theatre, Rooty Hill
28 - 29 March 2021 | Laycock Street
Theatre, Gosford



The Wiggles - We're All Fruit Salad Tour

20 April 2021 | WIN Entertainment
Centre, Wollongong
21 April 2021 | Newcastle Entertainment
Centre
24 – 25 April 2021 | Qudos Bank Arena,
Sydney Olympic Park



Bluey's Big Play - The Stage Show

17 - 18 March 2021 | Griffith Regional
Theatre
15 - 16 April 2021 | Orange Civic Theatre
17 - 18 April 2021 | Laycock Street
Theatre, Gosford 21 – 22 April | Capital
Theatre, Tamworth
24 - 25 April 2021 | Civic Theatre,
Newcastle
27 - 28 April 2021 | The Concourse,
Chatswood
29 April - 2 May 2021 | NIDA Parade
Theatre, Kensington
7 - 9 May 2021 | Sydney Coliseum
Theatre, Rooty Hill 19 - 23 May 2021 |
Sydney Opera House



PAW Patrol Live! "Race to the Rescue"

22 - 23 May 2021 | Aware Super Theatre
at ICC Sydney, Sydney
29 - 30 May 2021 | Newcastle
Entertainment Centre





Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

The Progress Report

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability has now released its 3rd Progress Report, covering the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. To access the report go to <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/third-progress-report>

2021 Hearing Schedule

- March 24: Public hearing 9, Sydney – Pathways to employment (additional hearing day)
- April week of 19 April: Public hearing 12, Sydney – NDIS and service providers
- May week of 17 May: Public hearing 13, Sydney – NDIS and service providers
- June week of 7 June: Public hearing 14, Brisbane – First Nations and out-of-home care

The hearings are live streamed on the website <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/>

Ways to contact the Royal Commission

Email: DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

Phone: 1800 517 199 or 07 3734 1900 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday

Mail: GPO Box 1422, Brisbane Qld 4001

You have the right to complain if you are concerned about the services delivered to you or the person in your care. Complaints can clear up misunderstandings and help you get the right support.



Carers NSW will be hosting a series of webinars on the rights and complaints avenues available to carers in a range of service systems and settings.

Based on the **'Know your rights'** fact sheet series, the webinars will take place via Zoom and are open to carers and service providers. They are held on the following Wednesdays at noon to register go to <http://www.carersnsw.org.au/advice/rights-complaints> or call 02 9280 4744.

- 17 March - What can carers do about issues with aged care services?
- 14 April – What can carers do about issues with disability services?
- 19 May - What can carers do about issues with health care services?
- 16 June - What can carers do about issues with mental health services?
- 14 July- What can carers do about issues with Centrelink?
- 18 August - What can carers do about issues with paid work?
- 15 September- What can carers do about financial issues?

Contact the Carers NSW Policy Team on 02 9280 4744 or at policy@carersnsw.org.au.

Cardholder Q&A

Thomas uses his NSW Companion Card to get out and about in Wagga Wagga.

Q1. How often do you use your Companion Card? I use my companion card at least three times a week.

Q2. Where do you use your card most frequently? I mostly use my card at either ten pin bowling or the Oasis, the local swimming pool.

Q.3 Please tell us your favourite venue or activity you use your card at? My favourite venue I love to go and use my card would be Flip Out where I can jump around for hours.

Q4. Is there somewhere you now go that you could not go before having the card? And what venue or activity is it? I was always able to go to the venues I enjoy but it was harder to do as I would have to pay for my carer every time I wanted to go and do the activities I enjoy and I had to budget for them to support me.

Q5. How has having the card changed your experience in the community? Having a companion card has changed my experience in the community because it has made it easier for me to do the activities I enjoy, this is because I now don't have to pay for my carer to come with me as they get in for free to support me.

Q6. Would you recommend others that don't have a card to apply for one? Why? Yes, I would recommend that anyone who is able to get a companion card to do so as having one has benefited my life. Having a companion card has given me the opportunity to have more quality of life and creates independence for myself.

Q7. Tell us something about yourself you would like to share with other Companion Card holders and service providers. I love getting out in the community and trying new things, I try to get out in the community as often as I can.

Q8. In general is there anything that affiliates, businesses who accept the card, can do to assist you? Please try and involve me in the process as much as you can as I love being independent and not always relying on my carer.



What's On

Upcoming events for Companion Card holders.

Frozen (Australia) - The Broadway Musical

Until 23 May 2021 Capitol Theatre Sydney P: 1300 558 878

Monet & Friends

12 March - 06 April 2021. Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park P: 1300 665 915

Four Winds Easter Festival

31 March - 04 April 2021 Barragga Bay P: 02 6493 3366

Byron Bay Bluesfest

01 April - 05 April 2021 Byron Bay P: 02 6639 9800

Bathurst 6 Hour

02 April - 04 April 2021 Mount Panorama, Bathurst
E: events@australianracinggroup.com

Screenwave International Film Festival '21

14 April - 29 April 2021 Coffs Harbour P: 02 5626 5051

Bundanoon Highland Gathering

17 April 2021 Bundanoon P: 02 4883 7471

10th New England Bach Festival

29 April - 02 May 2021 Armidale P: 02 6772 5889



Contact NSW Companion Card

Phone: 1800 893 044 Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm

Email:

For Application enquiries:
applications.companioncard@fac.s.nsw.gov.au

For Affiliates: affiliates.companioncard@fac.s.nsw.gov.au

For all other enquiries: info.companioncard@fac.s.nsw.gov.au

Post: Companion Card, Locked Bag 4028, Ashfield NSW 1800

This newsletter was sent by NSW Companion Card
Department of Communities and Justice.

Need to replace your Companion Card?

If your card has expired, is lost or damaged, there is no need to fill out a form.

Simply call us on 1800 893 044 or email info.companioncard@fac.s.nsw.gov.au

No more expiry dates on NSW Companion Card.

Adult Companion Cards are issued for life, and since July 2018 they have been printed without an expiry date.

New Companion Cards never expire.