

# Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration and Extension Revocation 2023

## Disallowable instrument DI2023–17

made under the

**Public Health Act 1997, s 1180 (COVID-19 management declaration—general)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Background

On 11 March 2020, the Director General of the World Health Organisation declared the novel coronavirus SAR-CoV-2 (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic and requested that every country urgently take necessary measures to activate and scale up emergency response systems.

On 16 March 2020, the ACT Minister for Health declared a public health emergency under the *Public Health Act 1997* (the Act) in response to the risks posed by the novel coronavirus SAR-CoV-2 (COVID-19). This declaration was extended numerous times, reflecting the serious ongoing and changing nature of the pandemic.

On 30 September 2022, the public health emergency declaration was revoked by the Minister for Health. On the same day, the Executive declared that COVID-19 continues to present a serious risk to public health and a COVID-19 Management Declaration was made to enable public health measures to be implemented to prevent or alleviate the ongoing risk to public health.

Throughout the COVID-19 Management Declaration period the Chief Health Officer has provided 30-day reports to the Executive on the status of the public health risk. In their most recent advice, dated 10 February 2023, the Chief Health Officer advised that the public health situation had stabilised and it is now appropriate for the ACT Government to consider revoking the COVID-19 Management Declaration.

### Purpose

The purpose of this instrument is to revoke DI2022-224 *Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration 2022* and DI2022-267 *Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration Extension 2022* issued under section 1180 of the *Public Health Act 1997*.

## **Section notes**

### **Section 1 - Name of instrument**

This section names the instrument. The name of the instrument will be the *Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration and Extension Revocation 2023*.

### **Section 2 - Commencement**

This section provides that the Direction will commence on 28 February 2023. The revocation will take effect at midnight on 28 February 2023.

### **Section 3 - Revocation**

This section outlines that the Executive declares that, having considered the advice of the Chief Health Officer (dated 10 February 2023), it is a proportionate response for the COVID-19 Management Declaration to be revoked. In forming this belief, the Executive has considered the matters prescribed by s118O(2)(b) of the *Public Health Act 1997*.