

# CORONAVIRUS FIGHTBACK

## Soldiers add to positive cases

THE Territory's coronavirus count has risen to 30 after two Australian Defence Force personnel, who tested positive in the Middle East, were added.

A Secure NT spokeswoman confirmed the Territory's active cases had risen to five.

"The positive cases will remain in hospital until recovered while the negative cases who have been in contact with them will remain in supervised isolation for 14 days," she said. "The location of this isolation will be determined by ADF."

Twenty-five people have recovered from the virus in the Territory and 4643 tests have been conducted.

# Lawyers tell of spike in demand as NT people fear the worst

# Rush to prepare wills

**SARAH MATTHEWS**  
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LAWYERS have seen a dramatic spike in demand for wills since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic as Territorians look to get their affairs in order during such an unprecedented time.

According to lawyer and firm partner of Darwin Family Law Julian Barry, there has

been an increase of about 50 per cent in clients seeking will services.

He said the trend was particularly prominent among older people but he had seen an increase in people of all ages getting their affairs in order.

"It might be that a lot of people aren't working as much and have more time to get their lives in order," Mr Barry said.

"For example, in places like Europe where people are in stricter lockdowns, there has been a trend of people tidying and retidying their cupboards numerous times.

"Maybe this is the Darwin equivalent.

"This crisis has been absolutely unprecedented and made them think more about what they don't usually have to think about too much."

Mr Barry recommended that anyone looking to make a will see an expert, and said they should expect to pay about \$550 for an individual or \$750 for a couple.

"Contact a solicitor who specialises in that area – don't get a will off the net," Mr Barry said.

"Preparing a will is comparatively inexpensive, and having an appropriate will in

place can save a great deal of stress and anxiety."

Surprisingly, Mr Barry said there had been a drop in demand for other family law services such as divorce and separation.

"We all (family lawyers) got very quiet for the first three weeks of the lockdowns," he said. "I reached the conclusion that perhaps an outbreak of peace and love has occurred."



Etienne Pazo Savage, Juan Pazo Coyola and Melissa Savage at the Charles Darwin National Park

Picture: CHE CHORLEY

## Fun in the sun as family hits trails

**SARAH MATTHEWS**

THE lifting of restrictions on Territory parks combined with the start of the dry season saw droves of people enjoying the great outdoors this long weekend.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner announced on Monday that a number of the Territory's parks, golf courses and swimming pools would be reopened in time for the long weekend as part of the first stage of a planned roll-back of COVID-19 restrictions.

Melissa Savage, Juan Pazo Coyola and their son Etienne Pazo Savage spent their day riding through the Charles Darwin National Park, which was reopened on Friday.

Ms Savage said they were thrilled at being able to get out and about again.

"It's (the Charles Darwin

National Park) a hidden gem – it's really lovely," she said.

"There are a couple of different trails. We're going to go back tomorrow and try another one."

The family plan to work their way through all of the bike trails around Darwin throughout the dry season.

"We love to go bike riding but we don't do enough of it," Ms Savage said.

"There's heaps of great trails around Howard Springs too.

"We're trying to work our way through them."

Ms Savage said she felt lucky to be living in the Territory throughout the crisis.

"My husband is Spanish and he's got a big family there ... they've been indoors for five or six weeks and not even seeing the sun," she said.

"We feel very privileged to be living in Darwin."

## Federal funds will support air service to communities

TERRITORY-owned Hardy Aviation has secured Federal Government funding under the Regional Airlines National Subsidy scheme, allowing it to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harry Harris from Hardy Aviation said the funds would support the company's regular passenger services to nine remote communities across the Top End for the next six weeks.

"It helps cover the costs associated with our services, which would otherwise be covered by fare-paying

passengers," Mr Harris said.

"It ensures there's a link between Darwin and these remote communities, providing essential services including the movement of personnel and essential freight items like medicines, pharmaceuticals, post, food goods and other items."

Hardy Aviation offers flights Monday to Friday, landing in Port Keats, Bathurst Island, Pirlangimpi, Snake Bay, Croker Island, South Goulbourn Island, Ramingining, Millingimbi and Gapuwiyak.

## Pop-up testing clinic opens in Darwin's CBD

ANYONE with a fever or shortness of breath can now get tested for coronavirus in Darwin, with two Federal Government-funded pop-up clinics now up and running.

The administration office of the Danila Dilba Health Service, on the corner of Knuckey St and McMinn St in the CBD, was transformed into a respiratory clinic in a week.

The clinic has the ability to do up to 24 tests a day, with DDHS staff currently testing about 14 people a day.

It comes as the testing cri-

teria for COVID-19 is expanded across the country.

Danila Dilba received \$275,000 from the Commonwealth to run the clinic for three months.

The Federal Government is funding 100 GP respiratory clinics around the country to clinically assess people with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, a sore throat and/or tiredness.

The other clinic is located at the Palmerston GP Superclinic.

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