

## Code Authority Guidance letter to Members: Consultancy Arrangements with HCPs and Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

The MTAA Code Authority has produced this guidance document for MTAA member Companies regarding covering hotel quarantine costs for Healthcare Professionals in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak as part of a Consultancy Arrangement.

### Example situation:

An MTAA member engages an Australian Healthcare Professional (HCP) for consultancy work which requires them to travel to New Zealand to perform the work and a COVID-19 outbreak occurred. Due to this, the HCP is required to go into mandatory hotel quarantine upon return to Australia. Would the company be permitted to cover the hotel quarantine costs?

The Code Authority (CA) provides guidance as follows:

CA members agreed that in the circumstances outlined in the example above, Companies would be permitted to cover hotel quarantine costs as part of the expenses of the consultancy for which the HCP was engaged and would also be permitted to cover the resulting loss of the HCP's income during the extended period. However, it was further agreed that if the HCP extends their stay for personal reasons and their return to Australia is subsequently affected by COVID-19 restrictions (or other unforeseen circumstances) then the company is not responsible for any additional costs (such as mandatory quarantine), nor for any resulting loss of income. Members should be advised to review their HCP Consultancy Agreements to ensure that this situation is addressed appropriately, including any limits to be placed on expenses that the company would cover during the period of quarantine or other mandatory extended stay (such as additional meals beyond those provided as part of the quarantine "package").

Kind regards,  
**Code Authority**