

# THE DAILY DICE

## WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

# Labour in Lockdown

### THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NEW MOTHERS

BY MADELYN LUST

Whilst many mothers generally describe their pregnancy as an apprehensive and nerve-wracking time, they also describe it as a wonderful, exciting and educational time, celebrating with family and friends.

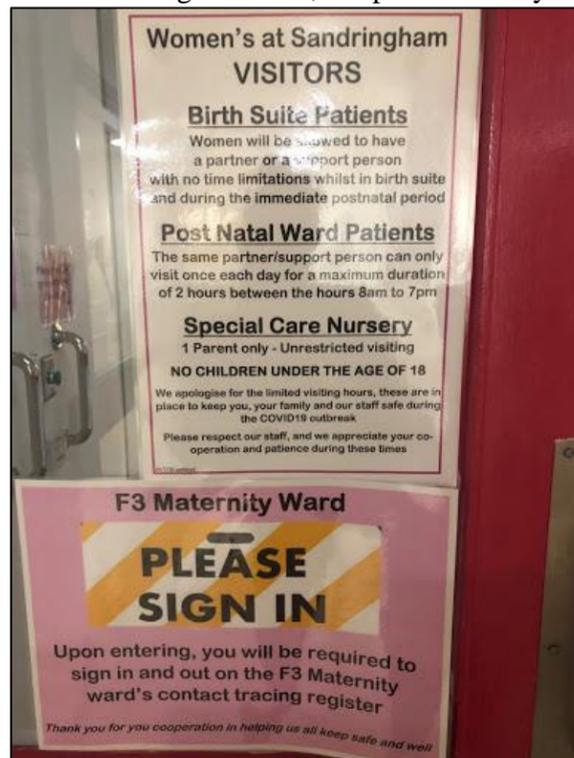
Having a party in honour of a major milestone in a woman's life can help relieve mothers of any stress they may be feeling, and give them time to have fun and celebrate with the people they love. Another often enjoyable and educational experience in a pregnancy is the soon-to-be parents attending prenatal classes. The significance of the classes is to ensure that the couple are educated and well prepared for the baby's birth. However, this year with the impact of the Coronavirus, everything has changed.

Restrictions put in place by the Government and, in turn hospitals, are changing every day. However, the current restrictions involving pregnancy include that partners and support persons are not permitted to attend prenatal and ultrasound appointments with the pregnant woman. If necessary or applicable, appointments are done over the phone. Only one support person (typically the partner) is allowed to accompany the woman during labour. Post labour, the partner is allowed to visit the woman in hospital once a day for two hours. It is inevitable that these restrictions will have a colossal impact on pregnant women's mental health.

With the already intense emotions women often experience throughout their

pregnancy, the lockdown restrictions are only adding to the pressure and anxiety women may be dealing with. Being able to attend birth classes give couples the opportunity to bond with other expecting mothers and their partners, as well as providing them with important information surrounding labour and post labour. Unable to do this, many are left feeling alone, unsure and unprepared for the birth of their baby. More and more expecting mothers are going into labour unprepared and without knowledge of what their options are, due to their lack of knowledge about birth that prenatal classes would have informed them of.

After she has given birth, her partner is only



Maternity Ward, Royal Women's Hospital Sandringham  
(Renee McFarlane)

allowed to visit her and the baby for two hours at a time, leaving mothers in the hospital alone most of the time. New grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives are also not allowed to see the baby in hospital and (with the exception of siblings) throughout the remainder of lockdown.

The ability to share and celebrate this huge milestone with loved ones isn't possible at this time and it is genuinely affecting women, such as new mother Claire. She says: "For me, the hardest part is not having my parents not being able to come and meet their grandson. Zoom and photos are not the same as a real hug." Claire is not the only mother who is sad about not being able to share her baby with family. Eight months pregnant Isabelle explains, "I always dreamed both my mum and my partner would be with me when we welcomed our baby into the world. As it stands, this won't be possible for us." Naomi, mother of two, says, "I am booked to have an elective Caesarean section, which means I will be in hospital for three nights. My five year old and three year old can't come to the hospital with me and the longest I've ever been without them is one night. I'm not sure how they, or I will cope." New and expecting mothers are undoubtedly doing it tough at the moment but fortunately there is still light in the dark.

Although the experience has definitely changed, the miracle remains the same. The joy of the birth of a baby is something the pandemic can't take away from parents. The Coronavirus can prevent many things from happening, but the circle of life has continued and will continue, despite how unprecedented these times may be.

## How Has COVID-19 Affected the Australian Economy?

BY ETHAN GRANT

Late last year, the COVID-19 pandemic spread from Wuhan, China and swept across the globe, changing the world as we know it.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory virus that is potentially lethal to people who are older or immune-compromised. According to the World Health Organisation, it has infected over 23.4 million people around the globe, and the worldwide death toll currently sits at over 809,000.

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## EDITORIAL

# Donald J Trump's Response to COVID-19

BY EMMA KOGAN-LAZARUS

The United States has only a number of months until the November Election. Time is running out, and the race to the White House between Joe Biden and current President Donald Trump is well underway. However, this race has been overshadowed by the global pandemic. Just as time is running out before the election, so too is the time for President Donald Trump to respond effectively to COVID-19.

Over the past five months, the President has avoided taking practical steps to protect American lives from the COVID-19 pandemic. Rapidly slumping opinion polls tell us that an increasing number of Americans are losing faith in the Trump Administration's response to the novel Coronavirus.

Continuous denial of scientific facts, disbelief of the severity of the threat of the pandemic and governmental disarray has seen the U.S. surpass five million, four hundred and forty thousand confirmed cases of COVID-19, which contributes a quarter of the world's death toll.

President Trump's slow response to the Coronavirus has cost the United States greatly. Implementing social distancing measures and compulsory mask wearing earlier in the pandemic might have led to more support.



*U.S. President Donald Trump (Eden Paradies)*

Instead, the President found himself in hot water over an answer to an interview question. When CBS's Weigia Jiang asked why America so often stresses the opinion that America leads the world in testing, to which Trump replied, "go ask China".

In comparison with the U.S. response to the virus, New Zealand immediately went into Stage 4 lockdown and managed to get rid of COVID-19 for 100 days. The country has quickly become the model for international management of the global pandemic.

COVID-19 is not going to go away overnight. The threat is very real and Americans are dying.

President Trump must recognise that whilst time is running out until the election, he still has time to save lives.

## How has COVID-19 affected the COVID-19 and the Australian Economy

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Before COVID-19, people generally didn't use any of the safety precautions that we all now have to apply. People were permitted to freely interact and socialise with each other and there was no such thing as social distancing or 'lockdown.'

During COVID-19, many restrictions have been put in place for the safety of the community and to try and slow the spread of the virus. Everyone is required to follow the precautions as they could have the virus with no symptoms then pass it on to someone who is at risk.

The economy has been adversely impacted by the impact of COVID-19 and it is likely that its consequences will still be damaging for some time. For example, a multitudinous number of people have already lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and the Australian unemployment rate is currently at a record low of 7.1%, the lowest since the Great Depression in the early 1930s. According to abc.net, almost one million Australians have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and over ten million Australians are applying for financial hardships for the first time. This has put an enormous strain on the welfare system, with the Federal Government introducing the Job Keeper Program, however, its continuation is in question. With unemployment so high, and uncertainty about the future, consumer spending has also decreased significantly. Economists believe that it will take many years for the economy to recover from the COVID impact.



*Social Distancing Expectations on Display (Eden Paradies)*

Since restrictions are preventing people from buying specific products, companies' share value goes down, which results in more people selling their stock. As a result, the value of their stock drops even lower. According to news.com, due to panic selling induced by the virus, \$232 billion worth of investments, has been shed in a single week.

# Mitch McCarron Puts Safety First

## How the basketball star is managing in lockdown

BY JADA HERSZ AND EMILY UMANSKY

Mitch McCarron is passionate about basketball. After 5 years as a professional basketball player, the Melbourne United player never thought that he would have to put his career on hold for a global pandemic. However, McCarron finds himself facing that very dilemma.

“COVID-19 has affected my basketball greatly”, he said.

In this off-season, basketball players have not been able to have regular training and fitness sessions. The Melbourne United team has also suffered from not being able to meet as a team and it is not the same training without knowing if or when there will be games to prepare for. The players had to adjust to training at home. McCarron does not have a basketball ring at his house so he has had to focus on ball handling, passing against the wall, band work, stretching and finding new ways to exercise that he has never experienced before.

Mitch McCarron recognises that although he cannot play basketball currently, he has been able to spend quality time with his family, which he wouldn't ordinarily get to do as much. COVID-19 has impacted many lives, but Mitch (as well as many others) hasn't found it too difficult because he gets to be with his family, which is genuinely important. He has proven that even in the hardest of times, he could make the best experience out of it. One of his highlights was when he got married on Zoom during the first lockdown.

As the next basketball season has been delayed until December, all basketball players get a break.

“I just want to play but health and safety come first”, he said about the extended break.

McCarron would prefer to be in front of large crowds with a great atmosphere, rather than playing in an empty stadium. COVID-19 has hit high in Melbourne, so for the safety of all, many believe that delaying the start of next season was the right choice.

On the topic of a longer break, Mitch recognises that he has the chance to rest more than he usually would.

“I had a bad fall in the last game and the next day on the flight home, my knee pretty much doubled in size”, he explained.

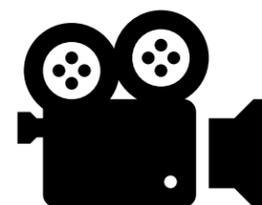
He needed to take at least a couple of weeks off to recover from the injury. Pre-COVID, McCarron played in a minor league during the offseason and was set to play for Geelong in the NBL1 this year. That season was cancelled, so with the extended break, he was able to get the rest and get the recovery he needed, instead of rushing off to keep playing and not giving his knee a break.

Unfortunately, McCarron himself contracted the virus since he was interviewed for this article. Along with other teammates, McCarron was forced to isolate at home for two weeks and all team training has been cancelled until further notice.

Mitch has taken this time to reflect on himself and has gotten the chance to catch up with friends and family who he would not ordinarily get to speak to. He has now recovered from COVID-19.



Mitch McCarron meets with the authors online (Jada Hersz)



To watch the interview with Mitch McCarron, [click here](#).

## COVID-19 Strikes Sport Hard

### COVID-19 takes over the sport community

BY JADA HERSZ AND EMILY UMANSKY

Around Australia, there has been a large effect on sport due to COVID-19. Some have been allowed to keep on playing, while others are still not able to. Sports such as AFL and NRL have proceeded at this point, however various games have not. There have been a few adjustments around the Olympics.

Due to COVID-19, the International Olympics are to be held in 2021. These changes have been made for the health of the contenders and spectators. The Olympics have been cancelled for the fourth time in history. Instead, they will begin not long after COVID-19 has been controlled and the Health Chief has confirmed it is safe to proceed.

The AFL has been given the advantage to recommence their games while COVID-19 is still rife.

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POLITICS

# Josh Burns' Hopes for the Future Generations

BY ETHAN GRANT AND MADELYN LUST

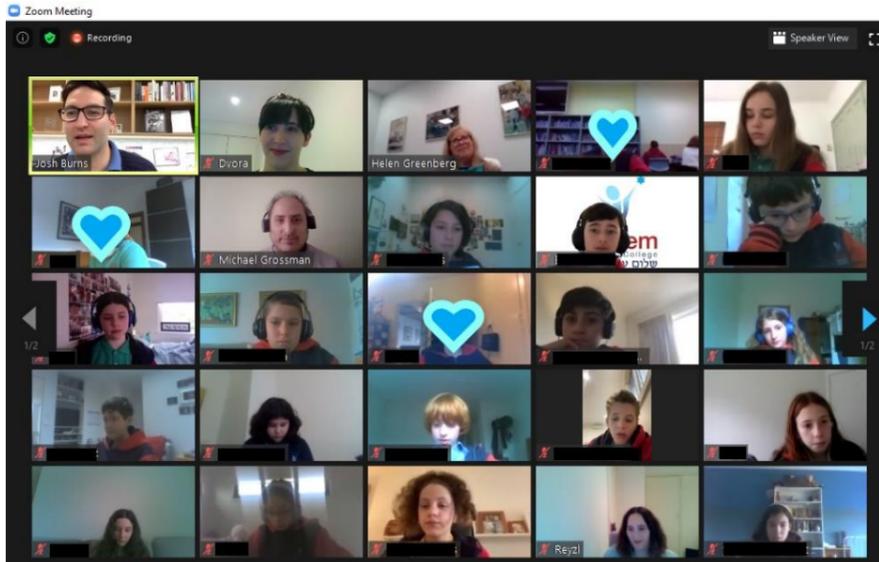
Josh Burns, the representative and politician in the seat of Macnamara, visited Sholem Aleichem College on the twenty-second of July, 2020, via Zoom.

Josh Burns MP talked about the implications of COVID-19. He explained that COVID comes in waves and has impacted everyone majorly. Small businesses are affected because of the imbalance of supply and demand due to stockpiling. People are enrolling themselves in the Jobseeker Program and are receiving small payments as financial supplements whilst being out of work.

Australia's economy is spiralling downwards and is going through a recession. It was recently announced that the next two sittings of Federal Parliament were to be cancelled. Josh Burns partially agrees and disagrees with this decision. He values the importance of following the health advice given by the Government and that safety should be the number one priority. However, he believes that Parliament needs to find alternative ways to be able to work hard and make decisions that need to be made.



To listen to Josh Burns MP, [click here](#).



Josh Burns MP addresses the students of Sholem Aleichem College (Dvora Zylberman)

Apart from working to combat COVID-19, Burns is trying to lower prices for new properties since they are much more expensive than they used to be, which deters first homebuyers. He aims to provide financial security for new home-buyers.

When asked about his personal background, the Member for Macnamara explained that he became interested in politics because of his family. All of his grandparents immigrated to Australia from different countries. They were unable to access privileges that would now be considered essential such as schooling. In fact, his grandparents inspired him to pursue politics in order to make sure that Australians would have access to the things past generations might not have had access to.

The outcome of this meeting with politician Josh Burns was that the students of Sholem Aleichem College ended up becoming more open-minded, more interested in politics and inspired, all thanks to Josh Burns' interesting background and engrossing theories and thoughts.

## COVID-19 takes over the sport community

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The new season started the 11th of June, beginning with no spectators. When Melbourne went into second lockdown, the whole of the The Victorian AFL were not allowed to play in Melbourne. They were expected to fly out of Melbourne and play in various states of Australia. These measures are still in place as Melbourne is in lockdown. As of now, Port Adelaide is on top of the Ladder, followed by Brisbane and Richmond. The Adelaide Crows and North Melbourne finished in the last 2 groups.

The T20 World Cup isn't proceeding in October due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been delayed, likely to 2021. The Australian Cricket Board assumes that they will continue before the year ends. The Cricket Australian Chief Medical Officer has been investigating how Australia is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NRL has kept playing after the lockdown. We have been told that it will be a 20 round season and the Grand Final is intended to be held on the 25th October. However, due to the pandemic it will most likely be delayed. The Panthers are on top of the ladder, leading with a win of 9 matches. They are closely followed by the Storm who have also won 9 games. The NRL ladder has been close in centre.