

Kalgoorlie Miner

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kalminer.com.au

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HOSTEL LOCKDOWN

FOREIGN TOURIST HAD VIRUS

■ Tom Zaubmayr

A Kalgoorlie-Boulder hostel has placed itself in voluntary lockdown over possible contact with a tourist who tested positive for COVID-19 in the region.

The Kalgoorlie Miner yesterday confirmed the first positive Goldfields case, revealed on Sunday by the State Government, had contact with people in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Gold Dust Backpackers received notice from the State Government that staff and guests may have had contact with an individual who tested positive to the virus and were at low risk of contracting COVID-19.

It is understood a French tourist carrying coronavirus came into contact with people at the hostel, but is not currently at the premises. The hostel immediately went into lockdown as a precaution yesterday upon receiving the notice, pending further advice. The health notice urged those at

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Gold Dust Backpackers.
Picture: Kelsey Reid

'Out of line' doctor blasted for frightening air passengers

■ Phoebe Pin

The operator of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's airport has slammed the actions of a local doctor who attempted to put passengers arriving on a flight from Melbourne into coronavirus self-isolation on Sunday night.

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder chief executive John Walker said Dr April Armstrong acted without authority and had caused unnecessary fear in the community.

"April Armstrong acted totally out

of line without any authority from anyone and created panic and upset because of her actions," he said.

"Her actions in trying to stop people entering the terminal, trying to contact taxis and have them not work and arranging buses was entirely her own actions.

"All we knew was that she had earlier in the day communicated with us on one of our mediums to ask us to pay for the buses, which we said no to because there was no need."

Mr Walker said he would be raising

the issue with local authorities including health professionals and WA Police.

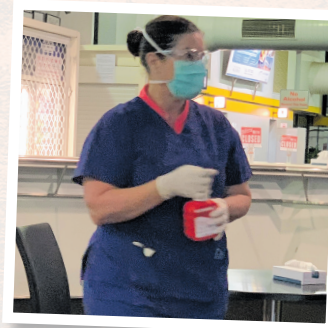
"She should be condemned for it — not for her passion because she is clearly passionate about this — but to put panic into the community when it was not necessary deserves condemnation. I think action should be taken but we will see."

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor John Bowler said he was "extremely disappointed" by Dr Armstrong's actions. Mr Bowler said he'd received

several calls from councillors, residents and taxi drivers who all believed international passengers were arriving in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and requested he "stop the flight".

"(But) this was the same weekly Virgin Australia flight that goes from Melbourne to Kalgoorlie . . . The passengers were not from overseas," he said. Mr Bowler encouraged locals to only observe and share official information about COVID-19. "We all

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Dr Armstrong at the airport.

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