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Media Release

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Sheed secures isolation aid from Victorian Government

Independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed has secured urgent support including medical staff and essential resources as a third of Shepparton's population is in 14-day home isolation.

"Last night I spoke to Premier Daniel Andrews who acknowledged the plea from the Shepparton community and is sending an emergency management co-ordinator and medical staff to respond to our crisis," Ms Sheed said.

"I will be meeting Emergency Management Victoria Deputy Commissioner Deb Abbott later today discuss the community's critical needs and how she can assist in meeting them.

"Ms Abbott and a squad of support workers will set up base in Shepparton where they will coordinate essential aid to the community.

"More than 50 army personnel have been sent to Goulburn Valley Health to address the staff shortage and 20 more are on the ground to assist with welfare checks.

"The main issue that is creating anxiety in the community is the lack of food and medicine deliveries for families undergoing 14-day home isolation due to being in Tier 1 COVID-19 exposure sites.

"Supermarkets and chemists are working on skeleton staff because a number of workers are in isolation – they simply cannot respond fast enough to the large influx of orders.

"Our community is grateful for the support of community members and community groups like GV Cares who have been working hard to support isolating families, but capacity is stretched.

Ms Sheed was grateful that Mr Andrew's responded to her community's pleas for help and is looking forward to receiving the emergency relief.

"It is now Day 7 since the first case was detected in this Shepparton outbreak and there will be thousands requiring further testing on Day 13. It is critical there are sufficient testing stations to deal with the Day 13 testing as it would be unacceptable for people to be kept in isolation beyond the required time.

"It is also essential that important updates are provided to the community about this emergency response and how it is being rolled out.

"I continue to advocate for a better resourced COVID hotline to respond to the community's growing needs and government advertising to encourage and educate people on the importance of vaccinations and where they can get vaccinated."

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