

Matt Kean Treasurer Minister for Energy

Mark Coure Minister for Multiculturalism Minister for Seniors

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 14 April 2022

## **NSW GOVERNMENT HELPS TONGA FIGHT COVID-19**

The NSW Government has answered the call to support the Kingdom of Tonga to combat rising COVID-19 cases.

Following a request for aid through the Island Nation's Consulate General, the NSW Government has donated 100,000 Rapid Antigen Tests and new linen, worth close to \$500,000.

NSW Treasurer Matt Kean said this donation follows some 115 hospital beds given by various Sydney hospitals.

"These resources will take the pressure off the people of Tonga, who are fighting the pandemic while working tirelessly to rebuild after the devastation caused by the tsunami," Mr Kean said.

The Rapid Antigen Tests come from the NSW stockpile, which still has ample supplies for use across the state.

The state's supply of tests has strengthened the NSW COVID-19 response and made our health system and schools more resilient.

Minister for Multiculturalism Mark Coure said the NSW Government is committed to helping our neighbours to recover as soon as possible.

"NSW has a proud history of standing by all people when adversity strikes and this is another example of us doing exactly that," Mr Coure said.

"I know many living in NSW have family and friends in Tonga, and I hope today's announcement will be welcomed news to them that NSW is standing by them."

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