## Social Connections Toolkit Communicating clearly and openly

Use this tip sheet to identify the ways you could increase your employees sense of belonging, support and connection.

Do you	Tick
Provide consistent and clear communication Update employees regularly about new boundaries – acceptable behaviours, workplace expectations, and consequences and actions to be taken. Provide communication in multiple methods – email, newsletters, meetings, etc.	
Check in with employees individually Email or call employees to see how they are going, provide updates, etc.	
Greet all employees by name Greet people in other divisions by name. For new hires, place name tags on desks so others can greet them.	
Demonstrate genuine care and concern Actively listen to employees, try to recall areas of interest or concern when interacting.	
<b>Connect authentically and realistically</b> Any attempt to connect needs to be honest and true to you as an individual.	
Organise and maintain meetings Provide access and encourage employees working from home to join. Allocate/allow some meeting time to engage in discussion off-task/non-work related.	
Address ways to overcome physical distancing barriers Communicate the availability of video or phone calls to remain connected.	
Ensure support is available to, and accessible by, employees Communicate services and resources available to employees and provide clear instruction for accessing.	
Utilise spare time to engage in personal communication/small talk Water cooler talk. Spare minutes in meetings - "Who else is watching".	
<b>Create and facilitate social activities specific to your workplace</b> Collect employees' preferences for social activities to increase engagement in activities. Use Microsoft Forms or post-it-notes.	
Implement team activities Collective warm-ups: ask employees to share a warm-up technique each week (e.g. collective breathing, positive thoughts, music, etc.).	
Share meals Eat lunch together. Gather for a coffee. Organise a Communitea (download from the toolkit).	
<b>Create a shared identity for your team</b> Employees to create a team name via communication and consensus or create emojis.	



