



MALTA COLLEGE OF FAMILY DOCTORS
127, Professional Centre,
Sliema Road, Gzira, GZR 1633 MALTA (Europe)
Email: contact@mcfid.org.mt
Website: <http://www.mcfid.org.mt>

MCFD PRESS RELEASE

On planning the turnaround during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Malta College of Family Doctors (MCFD) is a Voluntary Organisation (VO/0973) that strives to improve the academic and clinical performance of family doctors (known as “it-tobba tal-familja” or “general practitioners”) and the standards of primary health care in our country.

The MCFD applauds how the vast majority of citizens are with self-discipline and personal sacrifice following the instructions and recommendations of the medical community spearheaded by the Superintendence of Public Health to control the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

MCFD notes that this is taking place at the expense of an economic downturn with some awful impacts on businesses and enterprises and with individuals and/or families who are walking a tightrope or are financially crippled. MCFD is aware of the schemes and benefits offered to date and encourages the national authorities to do what they can to at least cushion and wherever possible alleviate the suffering arising from the current situation.

MCFD encourages our society in general and our policy makers in particular that in the planning of a turnaround we try to make things right while avoiding the mistakes that brought us here in the first place. Definitely it cannot be the economic growth at any cost of the last years but must be wellbeing at the centre of future policies and actions.

Our policy makers are aware of the multitude of recommendations and suggested actions that have been brought forward via countless public consultations, stakeholder meetings and policy documents over the last years. Of note are current solutions that were thoroughly resisted or accepted reluctantly until a few months ago but which now stand out in the public limelight. These, to name a few, include family-friendly measures such as working at home, the widespread use of digital services such as online teaching and

online meetings, environment-friendly measures that decrease air and noise pollution from traffic, and a predisposition to work as a united country towards a common goal.

Finally, MCFD calls on policy makers to shed off their silo mentalities and make the best of the raised awareness to reset a new normal by taking forward recommendations and actions that increase personal and community wellbeing whilst helping our country attain sustainable development.

Dr. Jason Bonnici
Honorary Secretary MCFD

5th May 2020