



COVID-19

Member Update

Tasmanian Catholic Schools - 25 March

As you are aware, the Tasmanian government has issued its proposed arrangements for schools over the next few weeks, with no student attendance planned after Friday 3 April in order to allow schools to begin to plan and prepare for remote learning options. The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office has announced it is mirroring those arrangements. Some independent schools already have remote learning happening and have brought forward the end of term.

While the AEU and IEU welcomed the announcements, both unions believe more should be done. Missing from any message was the need to ensure the safety of staff working in schools. Many members are finding it nearly impossible to ensure safe and hygienic practices around students. Some of our members are understandably concerned that they are placing either their own health, or that of a family member, at risk.

Yesterday we wrote to the TCEO Executive Director, Dr Gaskin, after we finally [received a detailed response](#) to our correspondence of 5 March questioning how our members would be supported during these unprecedented times. In [yesterday's letter](#) we asked your employer to take a more pastoral and generous approach in responding to the understandable anxiety of many members.

Today, we published [a press release](#) calling for all non-government schools to immediately take a more proactive, safe and pastoral approach to the arrangements for next week. We call for the provision of work-from-home arrangements for staff with health concerns, and for supervised classes to be provided only to vulnerable students and the children of essential services workers. Schools simply cannot safely continue as they are in the current environment. Time is up!

Please continue to check for further information and updates on this [dedicated section of our website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#). **If you need assistance, advice or support, do not hesitate to contact us on (03) 9254 1860 / 1800 622 889 / info@ieuvictas.org.au**

In unity

Debra James

General Secretary