

5 May 2020

Dr Gerard Gaskin
Executive Director
Catholic Education Tasmania
PO Box 102
NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Via email: director@ieuvictas.org.au

Dear Dr Gaskin

We are extremely concerned at the inconsistent and contradictory messages coming from your office which are causing confusion and distress for staff who are working tirelessly to try to implement CET policy. Particularly, your last media statement is irreconcilable with your policy. On one hand your policy says, "*CET school sites will be open and staffed from Monday 27 April for those students whose parents/carers work or whose parents/carers are unable to support or supervise learning from home*". By contrast, your media statement says, "*Your decision to send your child back to school, for whatever reason, will be accepted without question*". The Principal who you publicly accused of "fail(ing) to express CET policy correctly" was expressing a position much closer to CET policy than your media statement. In fact, she quoted directly from your policy and reinforced the policy with the following gentle request: "*I ask that if you have the option to keep your child at home, however, can you please do so?*"

While we understand the pressure to respond to controversial media reports, there must also be an obligation to support your leadership in implementing challenging policy in extraordinary times. We have not spoken to the Principal at St Mary's and we are not acting for her. We are however very concerned that any member of leadership looking at this public exchange will have cause to be extremely wary about what support they might expect from the CET when doing their best to manage their school and address the needs and concerns of their school community.

We are now left wondering whether your policy or your media statement are to be implemented and expect that school leadership will be needing some clarification.

Yours sincerely



Debra James
General Secretary