

Sunday 12 July 2020

via email

Dear Principal

As we all know, we are in for another very disrupted term. This will be another big challenge for everyone in a year which has not been short on challenges. We want to work constructively with you to ensure that the safety of students and staff comes first while our schools continue to deliver quality education and pastoral support. Please find a copy of the statement I made today about [staffing and safety in Term 3 here](#).

Most urgently, we ask you to ensure that staffing levels on your campus are kept to the minimum required. We accept that some staff will need to be physically at your school while Stage 3 restrictions are in place, but believe that it is crucial that schools observe the principle that those who can work from home should do so. School leaders showed great initiative during Term 2 in terms of supporting remote work and meetings, and staff demonstrated extraordinary capability and dedication to the education and wellbeing of students while working from home. We strongly encourage you to ensure that no staff attend the workplace unnecessarily, and that any work which can be done remotely (including participating in meetings) is done remotely. Minimising attendance is the best way to minimise risk of transmission – this is both a public health issue and an Occupational Health and Safety issue.

Beyond this, I ask that you take a collaborative and consultative approach to planning your school's arrangements for this term. We know from experience that consultation is key to maintaining safety and morale and to avoiding potential disputation, and I encourage you to commence discussions with your school's elected Health and Safety Rep and IEU Sub-Branch Rep about arrangements for coming weeks.

The IEU office is here to assist in any way we can – please don't hesitate to get in touch via info@ieuvictas.org.au.

Regards

Debra James

General Secretary

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