

## **INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION VICTORIA TASMANIA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION – MAY 2020**

The IEU Committee of Management applauds the extraordinary effort teachers, support staff and principals have made in rapidly adapting to and providing effective remote learning in Victoria and Tasmania in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of our members has occurred in very challenging circumstances, and its success is a testament to the dedication, innovation and hard work of school staff across our two states.

Committee of Management endorses the following principles as key to any substantive return of students to on site learning in Victoria and Tasmania:

1. That the medical advice of the states' Chief Health Officers continues to be followed across all schools, both government and non-government.
2. Should that medical advice change, clear guidelines are developed to assist schools to meet their health and safety obligations to staff, students, and the parent community. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Social distancing guidelines for classrooms and other areas in schools, including staff rooms
  - b. Clear guidelines that state if students or staff are unwell, they should not attend school, including appropriate isolation guidelines and provision of PPE consistent with health advice if a student becomes unwell at school
  - c. Protocols for cleaning and hygiene, including when personal protective equipment should be used
  - d. Directions limiting large physical gatherings such as assemblies and meetings, consistent with community restrictions
  - e. Restrictions on any large group student activities, consistent with community restrictions
  - f. Continuation of the capacity for any vulnerable employees, or employees with vulnerable household members, to work from home
  - g. Reasonable notice of any changes to be implemented so that schools can prepare effectively
  - h. Facilitation of regular testing of staff
3. That specific guidance be provided to ensure that the workload of principals, teachers, and support staff is addressed. IEU members have worked tirelessly to prepare and provide remote learning, and we anticipate that further changes to educational delivery are likely to create even more pressure and work intensification. Any transition back to on site schooling must be orderly, staged, and manageable, and it is essential that genuine consultation with staff, their union, and their health and safety representatives guide this process.
4. Finally, the key guiding principle and the most important consideration in a transition to on site schooling must be the health and safety of all staff and students.

The IEU acknowledges the many employers who have consulted and worked constructively with us throughout this health crisis. We will continue to advocate for the employment security and the health and safety of our members during this difficult period and as we transition back to normal schooling arrangements.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – 7 MAY 2020**