

Independent Education Union

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6 April 2020

The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Member for Wannon
Minister Education

By email

Dear Minister

As you are aware, the issue of the stand-down of school staff was raised formally with you by the IEUA in correspondence last week and in our telephone conversation on Friday afternoon 3 April.

The IEUA is being inundated with calls from members in relation to threats or actual stand-down of staff in schools ahead of the commencement of term 2.

The IEUA believes that these decisions are precipitous and inconsistent with national cabinet decisions to keep workers attached to workplaces.

Further, the IEUA is only too aware of the high level of both federal and state funding provided to schools through recurrent grants.

Whilst there may well be the threat of imminent decline in fee receipts, or decisions to waive fees by schools, these matters have not yet impacted schools.

Further it is entirely unclear on a school by school basis whether the current JobKeeper arrangements or the new provisions for not-for-profit employers (15% revenue decline) are accessible, applicable and appropriate for the school education context.

The IEUA urges immediate action and clarification in relation to the arrangements to keep staff employed in schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Watt', is enclosed within a thin rectangular border. The signature is stylized and slanted.

CHRIS WATT
Federal Secretary

cc State/territory ministers