



COVID-19 - Member Update - 10 July

Further to our general update on Wednesday, like you, we are still awaiting clarification of the arrangements that will occur next term after 20 July. However, in our view it is highly likely that many student cohorts will move to remote and flexible learning. We have received many queries about the union's position on the key issues framing any new arrangements.

[This is statement the IEU made about this yesterday:](#)

The IEU supports the principle that those who can work from home should do so while restrictions are in place. The vast majority of schools managed remote working arrangements very effectively in Term 2 and are capable of doing so again if required. During the remote-learning period of Term 2, staff across our schools showed enormous dedication and innovation in maintaining quality teaching and student pastoral support, in many cases while working from home.

Minimising physical attendance at workplaces minimises the risk of transmission, and we call on employers to maintain staffing on school grounds at the levels required to teach any on-site classes and run supervision programs. Particular consideration should be given to staff who have health or family reasons for not attending the workplace. Other staff may prefer to work on school grounds, and this should be taken into account when planning onsite staffing levels.

There should be no obligation to physically attend the workplace to participate in planning meetings which can be run remotely.

Should Victoria transition back to remote teaching during Term 3, we encourage schools to employ casual relief teachers to assist with on-site supervision programs, allowing classroom teachers to focus on delivering quality education.

Of most concern to us is the safety and wellbeing of our members. That is why we believe that only small cohorts of students and relevant staff should attend school, and stringent protocols are put in place to ensure hygiene and distancing. There should be no large in-person meetings of staff or students, and no doubling up of workload. The many learnings about staffing, communication, workload and other arrangements from the all-too-recent period of remote learning should not be forgotten. We also actively encourage employers to hire additional staff such as CRTs to assist in supervision.

We will continue to work with our reps and members to represent their concerns., and to communicate with you as more information comes to hand. For more frequent updates, check the [dedicated section of our website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For any individual issues or questions, don't hesitate to email us at info@ieuvictas.org.au or send a text message to 0480 092 251.

In unity
Debra James
General Secretary