



COVID-19

Statements regarding the transition to on-campus learning.

11 and 12 May 2020

Schools continue to do an extraordinary job of delivering quality remote education to students in unprecedented circumstances, thanks to the dedication, innovation and hard work of teachers, principals and support staff.

We would welcome a cautious and well-planned return to on-site learning, but it's essential that governments, schools and staff work together constructively to get this right – the last thing we want is to undermine the great efforts that have kept community transmission so low.

Careful planning and genuine consultation will also be required to ensure that the transition does not increase workloads for already over-stretched teachers, support staff and principals. Teachers, for example, cannot be expected to simply “double up” by delivering classes both in person and remotely.

Like all workers, school staff are entitled to a safe workplace, and no effort must be spared in ensuring that risks are minimised and in particular that the safety of vulnerable employees is protected.

We call on all non-government schools to continue to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer and the state government to ensure a consistent approach from all schools.

11 May 2020

The IEU supports the Victorian plan for a cautious return to in-school learning, providing that health and safety is the top priority, that vulnerable staff are fully protected and that there is genuine consultation at every level.

Schools will have to give careful consideration to every aspect of their operations to ensure that they are able to provide the safe working and learning environments that staff and students are entitled to.

It took an extraordinary amount of work from teachers, principals and support staff to move to effective remote learning, and it will be a big job to transition back - so it's important that this process is properly supported and manageable for all staff.

12 May 2020