

A message from the

Vice-Chancellor and President

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY



MONDAY 11 MAY, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Over the past few days governments around Australia are slowly starting to ease some of the restrictions introduced to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Premier Daniel Andrews has announced today that some restrictions will be eased in Victoria and this is also the case in Queensland.

While the restrictions vary across Australia, physical distancing remains in place across the nation, as well as the direction to stay home. For instance:

- [Changes to restrictions in Victoria](#) include allowing gatherings of up to five people in your home, small gatherings outdoors of up to 10 people, short road trips allowed but no overnight stays, and testing for people with even the mildest symptoms
- [Changes to restrictions in Queensland](#) include allowing gatherings of up to five people in your home (if all visitors are from the same household), travel of up to 50km for recreation, and a staged return for some primary and secondary school students.

How these changes impact Federation University Australia

The Crisis Operations Group met this morning to discuss future planning for operations at Federation University and Federation TAFE.

For the time being, there are no further changes to Federation operations.

If you can work from home, you must continue to work from home. Online learning will continue for our higher education students. Changes to educational delivery in TAFE remain in place.

I know this has presented a range of challenges and I am truly impressed with the way you have adapted so quickly to keep the university operating and our students receiving a high-quality education. We have a range of resources to help you, some of which you may already be familiar with and include:

- [Staff working from home toolkits](#)

- [HR support for staff and managers](#)
- [Information from ITS on using technology to stay connected](#)
- [CLIPP support for online learning and teaching](#)
- [Health and wellbeing resources.](#)

Transition to work and study on-campus

We are working on a plan for transitioning back to on-campus work and study. This plan will be shared with you as soon as it is finalised.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have followed the advice of government in making operational decisions and we will continue to do so. The safety and wellbeing of our staff and students has been our highest priority.

This planning will look not only at how we implement physical distancing and appropriate hygiene measures, but also consider who has the highest need to be back on campus first, so we can plan a safe and staged return.

It is important to remember that the easing of restrictions does not mean the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Physical distancing requirements, hand hygiene, staying home when unwell and getting tested if you have any symptoms at all, are even more important during any transition back to 'normal life' to ensure we prevent new cases from emerging.

Thank you again for your patience and dedication to educating our students in the most unusual and challenging of times.

Stay safe,

Helen