

ACU Announcements

Friday 13 March 2020

Dear staff and students

Given that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic and the Australian Government has issued new guidelines, we are taking additional steps to protect the health and wellbeing of all in our community.

Firstly, the university has escalated the incident level, and the response group will now be chaired by the Chief Operating Officer and meet three times a week. Along with monitoring and responding to the unfolding situation, the group will oversee business continuity planning.

The university has also developed a set of protocols for reporting and dealing with confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst staff, students and visitors.

[The protocols can be found on the ACU website here.](#)

This afternoon Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a new set of guidelines about large gatherings of people. This does not apply to universities which, along with schools, have been identified as essential services. Classes and other work are still going ahead as usual. We will review this in light of specific activities such as graduations and travel on Monday and will advise you of any changes.

We know this can be an unsettling time, and as the situation continues to evolve, we ask that you please stay engaged with our communications – you can visit [our FAQs page](#) at any time for up-to-date advice.

If you are feeling unwell and have concerns about exposure to the virus, please stay at home, arrange to see a doctor. Students, please let your course coordinator know; staff please let your supervisor know. We remind you to exercise good hygiene practices to help prevent the spread of illness and infection so we can maintain a healthy and safe place of work and learning.

On behalf of ACU's Incident Response Group.

Australian Catholic University & the courses offered by the University are registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Provider registration codes: ABN 15 050 192 660 CRICOS Reg. 00004G.

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[Australia Catholic University Critical Incident Management Policy.](#)

