

ACU Announcements

Monday 16 March 2020

Dear staff and students

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to change rapidly, the Critical Incident Response Group will now be sending an update after each meeting – on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If necessary, this will change to daily updates. If you'd like to review past communications, you can find them in our [FAQs](#), along with answers to many other questions.

Latest Australian Government advice and travel restrictions

Over the weekend Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that all people arriving in Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. The government also escalated advice to undertake social distancing, including avoiding handshakes and staying 1.5 metres away from each other where possible.

Following this advice, we ask supervisors to speak to any staff planning to take leave and travel overseas and ensure they have factored in this self-isolation period. Similarly, those currently overseas should be contacted and made aware of the new conditions.

All work-related international travel and new travel bookings by staff and students is suspended until **31 July 2020**. While no restrictions have been implemented on domestic travel to date, the university is actively reviewing this position.

ACU meetings and events, including graduation ceremonies

Today we have decided to cancel or postpone all non-essential events and we ask staff to move meetings to video or phone conference where possible. Regrettably, following the Australian Government ban on gatherings of more than 500 people, we have cancelled the Autumn graduation ceremonies. Those students who have already registered for these ceremonies will be contacted with further information.

Online learning for students

We are working to increase our ability to deliver teaching online so as to provide flexibility for our students and will be in touch with regular updates on this. For the moment, in line with government advice, our campuses remain open to students and staff. As the Critical Incident Response Group Convenor, I have today been in touch with

the NTEU ACU President and ACUNSA President and will continue to inform these representatives of our considerations.

Remote working for staff

While our campuses remain open to students and staff, we are reviewing arrangements for staff to work remotely and will have an update on this later in the week. This will include protocols on approving and managing remote work arrangements, clarifying expectations and accountability, and practical advice on how to work from home.

Sessional academic staff

Our sessional academic workforce is part of our core workforce and staff are committed to delivering quality teaching. For information on payment for sessional staff in the event of campus closures, or for those who become unwell, please visit our [FAQs](#).

Student assessments and exams

The Learning and Teaching Centre and Student Administration are working closely with faculties to review assessments for Semester 1, including examinations. Students will be advised of arrangements in due course.

On behalf of Dr Stephen Weller and the Critical 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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