



## Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Friday 7 August 2020

Dear Student,

Now that Victoria has moved to tighter COVID-19 restrictions, Federation University and Federation TAFE has worked with the Victorian Government to determine which essential and educational activities can continue on campus during the stage 4 restriction period in Melbourne, and stage 3 restriction period in regional Victoria, currently scheduled to end Sunday 13 September.

There are quite a few changes so please take the time to read the summary below carefully.

These decisions have been made to protect the safety of everyone at our campuses.

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### **Berwick Campus operational changes**

In response to [stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions](#) in Melbourne, we are limiting on-campus student activity at the Berwick Campus to just Friday's Community Pantry to support our international students.

**All other activities are closed** including the student Learning Spaces in the Library, with affected students being provided with appropriate computer support to see them through the next six weeks.

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**Regional campuses – Ballarat, Gippsland, Wimmera and Federation TAFE**

Our regional campuses continue to work at a similar capacity as before, under stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions in regional Victoria, with some changes to practical classes, as detailed below.

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### **Nursing pracs suspended for six weeks**

Due to the complexity of managing under stage 4 restrictions, the decision has been made to suspend all Bachelor of Nursing laboratory classes until the end of the restrictions period at all locations. We will review this toward the end of lockdown. Teaching and learning will continue online.

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### **Student travel between stage 4 and 3 restricted areas to campuses**

For the safety of our university and TAFE community, we have decided that until the end of the restriction period we can no longer allow students to travel from a stage 4 restricted area (metro) to a stage 3 restricted area (regional Victoria) for on campus study or training.

Those students travelling for placement should continue to monitor their email for specific updates related to their placement.

This is regrettable and we understand it will affect some of our Federation TAFE students but all necessary arrangements will be made to make sure they can recommence on campus as soon as possible.

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### **Government Coronavirus Isolation Payments**

Casual workers in Victoria can now apply for [Coronavirus Isolation Payments](#) if they need to self-isolate while waiting for the result of a COVID-19 test (\$300) or if they test positive and must self-isolate for 14 days (\$1500). Eligibility for the payment is restricted to those who will not receive income during self-isolation or have exhausted all other leave entitlements including any pandemic leave provisions.

We understand that many of our students have casual work and may find these payments useful if they must self-isolate.

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## Support for students

We again remind you of the student support services available to you – browse your [academic support options](#), explore the [health and wellbeing services](#) provided, and if you are feeling anxious or distressed, talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online. Get emergency contacts and learn how to [make an appointment here](#).

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We look forward to seeing restrictions eased, but until then, please stay safe and check your emails for further updates.

Best regards,

Professor Andy Smith  
Acting Vice-Chancellor and President  
Federation University Australia



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