

Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Easing of COVID-19 restrictions

Wednesday 13 May 2020

Dear Student,

Over the past few days governments around Australia have slowly started to ease some of the restrictions introduced to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

[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, a staged return to primary and secondary school, and testing for people with even the mildest symptoms.

How these changes impact Federation University Australia

Federation University leadership is meeting regularly to plan for future operations and a staged return to our campuses. However, for the remainder of semester one, we will largely continue with the adjusted delivery approaches we have already implemented and communicated to you as they apply to your program.

Online learning will continue for most of our TAFE students. Most of our staff, including our teachers, will also continue to work from home.

I know this has presented a range of challenges and I am impressed with the way our students have embraced technology so quickly to keep you on the path to achieving academic success.

We understand that this has not been easy for many of you and some students are facing financial hardship. I thought this was a good opportunity to remind you that there are resources available to help eligible students. You should apply now if you need assistance through the following scheme.

[Coronavirus Special Assistance Scheme for TAFE students](#), which includes:

- cash payments
- computer and technology assistance
- extensions to the due date for tuition fees, and
- an extension to the census date for Diploma and Advanced Diploma students.

[Food Relief Assistance](#) is also available. This initiative provides students with fresh food, groceries and essential items, via on-campus community pantries or partner providers.

Transition to work and study on-campus

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have followed the advice of State and Federal governments in making operational decisions and we will continue to do so. The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our highest priority. In light of governments now beginning to relax COVID-19 restrictions, we are working on a plan for transitioning back to on-campus work and study.

This plan will set out a number of stages for the gradual return of more face-to-face-teaching. At each stage on-campus teaching will involve the implementation of physical distancing and appropriate hygiene measures. It is important to note that not all students will be returning to campus straightaway. As part of our staged approach, certain student groups with the highest need to access on-campus resources will be prioritised.

Apprenticeship training will continue in its current mode through small, face-to-face classes. Arrangements for students at Federation College may differ in line with the Victorian Government's policy for schools.

It is important to remember that this 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 the transition back to 'normal life' to ensure we prevent new cases from emerging.

Thank you again for your patience and your dedication to your studies in these most unusual and challenging of times.

Stay safe,

Professor Helen Bartlett
Vice-Chancellor and President
Federation University Australia



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