



Dear Parents and Carers,

16 March 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – New Government and Parkes Christian School Measures

The Prime Minister announced Sunday afternoon, following a meeting with all Premiers and Chief Ministers, that all those arriving from overseas from midnight on 15 March will be required to self-isolate for two weeks.

These measures expand those previously in place only in relation to certain countries advised to you previously. Updated information on travel restrictions and isolation requirements are available on the Australian Government's website here -

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

We continue to expect that all parents and carers within the School community will ensure that they are aware of and comply with these Government requirements.

Isolation is also required for those who have had contact with somebody with COVID-19. A contact is spending more than 15 minutes face-to-face with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or sharing a closed space for more than 2 hours with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This includes having this type of contact with the person 24 hours before they became ill. (See symptom checker tool at <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>).

School closures were considered by the recent meeting but, at this stage, not considered to be effective. The Government has advised, however, in the light of the development of the outbreak, that organised, non-essential gatherings should be limited to 500 people.

Under the advice from Christian Schools Australia, and the Association of Independent Schools, we have taken the view that it is appropriate, in the light of this revised guidance, to minimise larger gatherings within the School community and make some changes to upcoming events for the remainder of this term. This will include:

- the cancellation of Monday morning whole school assemblies;
- modifying Primary and High School Friday assemblies to be shortened outdoor gatherings (closed to parents and friends);
- reviewing the format of our whole school Easter Assembly (more details to come);
- **postponing MADD Night (no date set as yet);**
- postponing the High School Expo, scheduled for Week 9;
- modifying the Cross Country Carnival in Week 10 (more details to come);
- postponing the Stage 3 excursion to Sydney scheduled for May and;
- postponing the Week 9 SRC retreat to Canberra.

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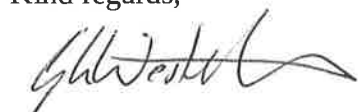
In addition to these measures, I can inform you that various organisations have today cancelled upcoming events scheduled for Term 1. These include:

- the cancellation of all Christian Schools Sports Association (CSSA) events including State Swimming, Open Boys and Girls Soccer Trials and the Secondary Touch Football Gala Day and individual trials and;
- the cancellation of the Thunder Girls Cricket League Day in Dubbo.

Full details of CSSA events can be found on their calendar at cssa.net.au.

It is unfortunate that we have had to make these decisions, however we are committed to working with our governing agencies to ensure we are doing what is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to keep you updated if there are significant changes or new developments, but do encourage all parents and carers to remain personally informed themselves of the latest Government advice.

Kind regards,



Glen Westcott

Principal