



COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC
SECTOR UNION

SPSF GROUP NSW BRANCH
ABN 11 681 811 732

In Reply Please Quote MDB:ndef CN 129342

1 April 2020

Mr Steffen Faurby
Managing Director
TAFE NSW
Mary Ann Street
ULTIMO NSW 2007

By email: mdtafensw@tafensw.edu.au

Dear Mr Faurby,

Re: Closure of all TAFENSW campuses to students and the public

The CPSU NSW is writing in relation to Work, Health and Safety concerns relating to TAFE NSW campuses remaining open to the public and students. Ongoing face-to-face dealings between students and administrative, support and related employees is placing our members at risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19.

On 31 March 2020, the CPSU NSW consulted with several hundred Union members working in Student Administration, across the five regions: Sydney, Western Sydney, Western NSW, Northern NSW and Southern NSW where the following motion was carried:

That until TAFE provides the CPSU NSW with confirmation that all relevant risk assessments related to preventing the spread of COVID19 have been completed, and PPE provided, campuses should close to students and the public. Work will continue on campus in accordance with WHS and at home where possible.

Accordingly the CPSU NSW seeks that TAFE NSW provides evidence that the relevant risk assessments have occurred, and what PPE is being provided to administrative, support and related employees on each campus.

Whilst the CPSU NSW understands that both the Federal Department of Health and NSW Health Department guidelines limiting outside gatherings to two do not apply to educational institutions, TAFE NSW as an employer has an obligation under Section 19 of the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011* (NSW) to ensure the health and safety for its workers. To comply with this obligation the CPSU NSW insists that site-specific risk assessments across its campuses occur to determine the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

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The CPSU NSW is the Federal Counterpart of the Public Service Association of NSW. CPSU NSW members are also members of the PSA.

In addition to risk assessments, other measures must be put in place to reduce the risk to staff including closing campuses to the public and students. An email should be sent to all students advising them of this, and how they can access services online or by phone. This has occurred successfully in other NSW public sector agencies such as Housing NSW, and has seen public housing clients access services either online or by phone.

The CPSU NSW is aware that as with Library staff, there is plenty of meaningful work for Student Administrative staff to continue to undertake remotely, including options for staff to work from home. However the unanimous motion makes it clear that administrative, support and related employees are not prepared to have any face-to-face dealing with either students or the general public but are prepared to do alternative work that is safe.

The Union appreciates that there are circumstances where some students will likely need to access the campus. Such as rural areas with no internet connection, disadvantaged students and those who need to finish practical classes in health related employment areas. In these unique circumstances TAFE NSW must ensure adequate PPE, lawful social distances practices, provision of hand sanitiser, cleaning and screens. Therefore the CPSU NSW seeks to discuss this as part of our urgent meeting.

The CPSU NSW seeks to engage with TAFE NSW on the matters raised in the above motion.

Please forward any enquires relating to this matter to CPSU NSW Industrial Officer Matthew Drake-Brockman on mdrake-brockman@psa.asn.au or 0408 029925.

Yours sincerely,



Troy Wright
STATE BRANCH ASSISTANT SECRETARY

cc: julian.oliveux1@tafensw.edu.au