



Community and Public Sector Union, NSW Branch
Branch Secretary Stewart Little

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In reply please quote: TW:sl

Steffen Faurby
Managing Director TAFENSW
Mary Ann Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

By email: steffen.faurby@tafensw.edu.au

Dear Mr. Faurby,

Re: TAFE NSW and COVID-19 Restrictions

I write to you on behalf of the Community and Public Sector Union and refer to your email to TAFE NSW staff on Friday 9 July 2021 regarding continuing TAFE NSW operations in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak and related public health orders.

The CPSU NSW has serious concerns with the approach adopted by TAFE NSW in relation to the current public health orders. We note your direction that ‘teachers are not to deliver face-to-face classes’, nor are they not to meet face-to-face with any students. Conversely, student services will remain operational, and libraries and computer labs will be open to support those students in the Greater Sydney Region who physically attend campus.

There appears to be different expectations for those who deliver educational services, and those who support students currently enrolled in TAFE NSW courses. There is not, for example, a lessened risk of transmission of COVID-19 for those CPSU NSW members working in libraries merely by virtue of the fact that they work in a library and are thus not engaged in the face-to-face delivery of classes. The CPSU NSW does not understand why the health, safety and wellbeing of support services staff are treated differently than those who teach at TAFE NSW facilities.

Consequently, the CPSU seeks a commitment that any TAFE NSW support services worker who has the capacity to work from home and who makes a request to this effect on the basis that they do not feel safe performing their duties on campus are allowed to do so, and that those workers who cannot perform their duties at home are paid special leave. This is, in our view, consistent with the relevant Department of Premier and Cabinet public sector guidelines.

Additionally, it is the view of the CPSU that those campuses that fall within the three high-risk LGAs (Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool) are closed to deter individuals from travelling unnecessarily, with either working from home arrangements in place or paid special leave to those who cannot work from home. The CPSU NSW is committed to preventing the further spreading of COVID-19 in our community, and we would expect that TAFE NSW would be committed to the same.

I thank you for your urgent attention to this correspondence and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Wright', written in a cursive style.

Troy Wright
Branch Assistant Secretary