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UTS CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00099F

20 January 2022

Mr Troy Wright  
Branch Assistant Secretary  
CPSU NSW / PSA

By email: [cpsu.nsw@psa.asn.au](mailto:cpsu.nsw@psa.asn.au)  
cc: [akennelly@psa.asn.au](mailto:akennelly@psa.asn.au), [lnelson@psa.asn.au](mailto:lnelson@psa.asn.au)

Dear Mr Wright,

**Your reference: AK: ndef CN 129532**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 January 2022 regarding a recent decision by National Cabinet to exempt Higher Education workers from the need to isolate if they are a close COVID-19 contact and are asymptomatic.

It is not our intention to require COVID infected staff to attend campus. The University has always prioritised the health and safety of our staff and students. We note the National Cabinet decision, however the most recent NSW Government Public Health Orders (14 January 2022) have not included Higher Education workers as part of the exemption list of those exempt from isolating in the case of a close contact. The University has worked closely with NSW Health over the past two years and has consistently complied with the NSW Public Health Orders in addition to our risk based approach.

For your interest, we also note that the information below regarding leave provisions is available to staff on our intranet site:

*Types of leave available to fixed term and continuing staff for COVID-19 include:*

**Sick Leave**

*Sick leave is available if you are unwell for any reason, including COVID-19. If you take more than 3 consecutive days of sick leave, a medical certificate is required as supporting documentation.*

*If you cannot attend a doctors surgery as you are isolating due to a positive COVID test, you should arrange a telehealth appointment to obtain a medical certificate. In circumstances where this is not possible, a statutory declaration providing the dates and details of your illness can be submitted instead, along with evidence of a PCR or RAT (if available).*

*Please refer to the sick leave page for more information on what to do if your sick leave runs out.*

*Note: If you are tested for COVID-19 and have been on campus in the past three days, have attended a clinic to be tested for COVID-19 and/or you are self-*



*isolating and awaiting results you will need to lodge a HIRO report and let your supervisor know.*

**Carer's / Personal Leave**

*You can access personal leave carer's leave if you need to care for a child or family member due to COVID-19. If your personal leave is exhausted, you can apply for sick leave.*

**Converting annual or long service leave to sick or carer's/ personal leave:**

*If you become ill for a period of five or more consecutive working days during annual or long service leave you may claim sick leave instead of annual or long service leave for the period of the illness. The same process is applied to staff who need to provide care or support to relatives or household members who test positive to COVID-19, for a period of five or more consecutive days of approved annual leave or long service leave. In this instance staff can claim personal leave for carer's responsibilities.*

*In both instances we require supporting documentation to be provided, either via a medical certificate or, if a medical certificate cannot be obtained, a statutory declaration providing the dates and details of the illness (and relationship to the staff member in the case of personal leave) along with evidence of a PCR or RAT (if available).*

I trust this addresses the union's concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Parfitt', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Professor Andrew Parfitt  
**Vice Chancellor and President**