



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Minister for Education, the Hon John Gardner, has requested that we distribute the following letter to parents and caregivers:

## COVID-19 – A letter from the Minister for Education

**The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has released the rationale underpinning its recent decisions relating to schools, Universities, aged care providers and other matters. The full statement is available [here](#).**

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer has also stated today that:

- We are not closing schools because we are looking for a proportionate response which is sustainable through several months and is possibly scalable into the future, depending on circumstances. At the moment, our circumstances are very different, for example, from the UK. So the UK have closed schools, not all of them, but many of them, overnight. They have many more cases of COVID-19 than we do - 2,600 last count. Over 71 deaths. This is very different to our current circumstances in Australia. They are making decisions on the basis of their own circumstances, which is appropriate for them.*
- They are still looking to do the same thing as us - to flatten the curve, save lives through saving beds and taking the pressure off our healthcare system. At the moment for us, that is not necessary in relation to schools. We know from where the virus has broken out, very few kids get the illness. Those that get the illness are mainly mild, they don't appear to be transmitting between children, in fact it's more likely that children will get it from their own parents and other people in their households.*

I would recommend that schools stress to their staff that if they are unwell, they should stay at home and recover to avoid the spread of winter illnesses (not just COVID-19). Now is not the time to soldier on.

The AISSA intends to remain open at 128 Greenhill Road and has put in place a range of strategies to minimise risk from COVID-19 and other illnesses to our staff and visitors. The AISSA will only be temporarily closed if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at our office and on the advice of SA Health. Should this occur we have implemented our business continuity plan to ensure we are well placed to be able to continue our service provision to you remotely.

Yours sincerely,  
Marcel Rijken, Principal  
20 March 2020