



19 March 2020

RE: Response to Corona Virus (COVID-19)

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of Mater Dei's latest response to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic. The following specifically applies to all non-school services: Early Childhood Education, Assessment and Therapy, and Next Path.

The situation is evolving daily and we continue to monitor advice from the various health and education authorities. In order to minimise risk to children, young adults, families and staff, Mater Dei has decided to take the following actions:

Good Hygiene

- Continue to practice good hygiene and encourage thorough hand washing and use of hand sanitisers at regular intervals;
- Promote coughing and sneezing etiquette into an elbow or tissue; and
- Increase natural air-flow to work and meeting rooms by opening windows whenever possible.

Isolation

- Consistent with current guidelines, instruct children, young adults and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness to remain at home until symptoms resolve;
- Encourage social distancing whenever possible;
- Exclude for 14 days from Mater Dei all individuals who have returned from overseas travel;
- Request parents/carers to disclose any planned overseas travel so that we can deal directly with the travelling family and discuss implications;
- Exclude any children, young adults or staff who have confirmed cases of COVID-19 until medically cleared to return to Mater Dei; and
- Exclude any close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 for 14 days since their last contact with a confirmed case.

Cancellation of Events and Services

The following have been cancelled to minimise social interaction:

- All Next Path Work Experience and Community Access programs;
- Visits by External Providers;
- Therapy services are cancelled for one week only (commencing Monday 23 March) while we clean and restock rooms and equipment. We are also working on a Tele-Health solution to provide alternative modes of therapy and support. If you are affected by this cancellation you will be contacted directly by your therapist.

These are challenging times and it is our intention to continue providing our services, albeit with some necessary modification, unless conditions demand a more significant response. The health and wellbeing of our community will always be at the forefront of our decisions, and I thank you for your patience and understanding. The Program Managers will keep you informed of developments and answer any questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mark Raue
CEO/Principal