



TAFE work health and safety management plan letter



The State School Teachers' Union of W.A. (Inc.)

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Managing Director
TAFE

Dear Managing Director

The SSTUWA has been contacted by our members expressing concern regarding the college's preparation for the expected increase in COVID 19 cases here in Western Australia.

As such we are formally requesting your college's COVID-19 Safety Plan to be shared with employees and ourselves to gauge what current controls are in place to manage the risk from COVID-19 at the workplace.

We also request provision of your college's appropriate risk assessments regarding the various WHS risks associated with COVID-19 and potential controls that may have been recommended by such risk assessments. These plans should have been composed in consultation with Health and Safety Reps and employees. We have received no information from our members that this has occurred.

Such risk assessments will have determined if additional measures above and beyond the CHO health order and your COVID-19 Safety plan would need to be implemented by yourselves as the employer to meet your obligations under the *OSH Act*.

It is important to note that there is an interface between the COVID related Public Health Order and the employer's obligations under the *OSH Act, 1984 : S.19 Duties of the Employer*. Adhering to the Health Order must be done in ways which meet OSH requirements.

Specifically, S.19 states:

19. Duties of employers

(1) An employer shall, so far as is practicable, provide and maintain a working environment in which his employees are not exposed to hazards and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, an employer shall — (a) provide and maintain workplaces, plant, and systems of work such that, so far as is practicable, his employees are not exposed to hazards; (b) provide such information, instruction, and training.

We look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Pat Byrne
President, SSTUWA

Authorised by Mary Franklyn, General Secretary, State School Teachers' Union of W.A. (Inc.)

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