eNews - 11 March 2022

SSTUWA
State School Teachers' Union of WA

COVID advice update

SSTUWA members are advised that any decision to continue to work, if designated a close contact, is entirely voluntary.

The Department of Education, following health advice, has provided a consent form for administrative purposes, to ensure that staff meet/commit to the critical worker criteria as set out by the Health Department.

This form should **not** be filled out as a matter of course but **only** if

- You are a close contact and have been identified as a critical worker*****

and

- are willing to attend work.

Despite the severe staffing pressures being experienced by many schools, all staff have a right to expect their workplaces to be safe.

The operating guidelines are clear - **“attendance is voluntary, in mutual agreement with the critical worker and their employer.”**

In making any decision to attend work, members should consider any personal circumstances which mitigate against doing this. This might include personal health concerns, caring responsibilities, vulnerable family members, etc.

If members who have been identified as close contacts have concerns, they are strongly recommended to take the seven-day pandemic leave option. This provides for a seven-day isolation and testing period after which it is safe to return to work if still symptom free.

Principals should notify the IMT if relief is unavailable. It is the department’s responsibility to provide relief staff in such instances.

We urge all members whether they be teachers or school leaders to support each other in this situation.

You can find the Critical Worker Flowchart and the Critical Worker Fact Sheet here.

Election information

Details of the SSTUWA State Council/AEU WA Branch Council Insufficient Nominations election can be found here, including a timetable and list request, election notice and nomination form.

TAFE neglect clear

New data highlights that the Morrison Government's failure to take responsibility for TAFE has entrenched underfunding, excessive workloads for staff and greater uncertainty for students.

The data, drawn from the Australian Education Union's most recent State of Our TAFEs survey shows the devastating impact of a decade of cuts to TAFE funding.

Key findings include:

- 75 per cent of TAFE teachers are experiencing increased workloads.
- 65 per cent of TAFE teachers say their workload is unmanageable more than half of the time.
- 83 per cent of TAFE teachers report that their institution had closed courses in the past three years, with lack of funding as the most commonly cited reason.
- 70 per cent of TAFE teachers report decreases in their department's budget in the past two years.
- Almost half of all TAFE teachers report increased class sizes in the past two years.
- 64 per cent of TAFE teachers say that they had had hours "shaved" from the courses they teach with no reduction in course content.
- 80 per cent of TAFE teachers report that they do not believe students studying today are receiving the same quality of education as they did two years ago.
- 57 per cent have felt pressure from management to pass students that might not be competent.

Read more here.

Executive directives

As negotiations continue around the General Agreement 2021 members are reminded to follow the current Executive Directives. These actions play a crucial role in the GA process. Yes, they can sometimes seem inconvenient but without pressure the SSTUWA will not secure the type of agreement we need to address workload, wellbeing and salary issues that we are all aware of.

So please join thousands of your colleagues and observe the directives laid out below:

No member is to participate in any performance management or performance review processes/meetings. This includes the Principal Professional Review process (PPR). (This refers to performance management only, it does not include sub-standard performance processes).

Members are not to attend any (whole or part of) staff meetings held:

- In accordance with clause 9.3 of the General Agreement 2019 (i.e. the five hours per term).
- Outside instructional hours (before/after school; during lunch or recess; for school leaders this includes regional, cluster and network meetings).
- During DOTT time.

This does NOT include meetings called to manage the Education Health Order (Webex, Teams, etc).

- School leaders are not to complete the School Resourcing System (SRS) monthly budget check.

Please support your fellow members and follow the directives as negotiations continue. If you have issues around following the directives please email for more information.

Education and Training

Online professional learning events for the holiday schedule now open for registration. Join us online for a range of high-quality learning sessions including:

Introduction to Education Leadership Click here

Leadership - Building a Team Focused on High Quality Instructional Practice Click here

Differentiation for Students with a Learning Disability Click here

Writing a Competitive Job Application for Teaching Positions Click here

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