



Dear Principals

AISNSW advice: 1.5m social distancing not required for students

From: Dr Geoff Newcombe AM

Friday 24 April 2020

Dear Principal

The Prime Minister has today confirmed that the 1.5 metre social distancing rule does not apply to students while they are at school.

At his media conference today, the Prime Minister said:

*"On schools, confirmation - and this is in the medical expert, the AHPPC's document being released further today - confirmation that the 4 square metre rule [for venues], and the 1.5 metre distancing between students during classroom activities **is not appropriate and not required**. I can't be more clear than that. The advice cannot be more clear than that. The 1.5m in classrooms and the four square metre rule is not a requirement of the expert medical advice in classrooms."*

This clarification of expert medical advice is welcome as schools prepare for Term 2.

While the protection of our children is paramount, the medical advice has always been that student to student transmission is very low.

We are all keen to see students return to schools and for face-to-face teaching to resume as it is clearly the preferred learning mode. There are also other significant wellbeing benefits for children being with their teachers and peers.

This confirmation enables much more flexibility for schools to manage a return to face-to-face teaching and practically plan a return to classrooms and social areas.

We welcome this very important clarification today by the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Education which will help schools and teachers effectively commence a gradual return to the best learning and teaching environment for our children and their families.

Information about the protection of our teachers and teacher to parent interaction is provided in our [Workplace Health and Safety Guide - Managing your duty of care while transitioning back to the classroom in Term 2](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Newcombe'.

Dr Geoff Newcombe AM

Chief Executive