

COVID-19 Response Update Wednesday 6 May

A message from the President

To our members, students and hirers,

I trust that you and your families are all safe and coping with the extended isolation.

Fortunately, with the shutdown and social distancing it looks like the worst of the contagion appears to be behind us and we're hoping that only brighter days are ahead. I just wanted to update you all on our thinking and planning for the balance of term 2 and into term 3.

The first critical trigger will be the go ahead from the NSW Gov for people to once again gather in larger sized groups. When this might happen is of course unknown, but there is talk of a briefing from the Federal and State Governments this Friday 8th May. Any relaxation of restrictions might however only apply to specific events as per the WA example (funerals, weddings, exercise etc) and this would preclude us from restarting, even with limited numbers.

The other consideration is when is it safe for us to resume classes given our older and more vulnerable demographic. The health of our students, staff and tutors is still our priority and we don't want to put anyone at risk.

We have looked at the option of virtual classes online, but the feedback we've had from tutors and students who have tried this method of delivery has not been very positive. For obvious reasons it is very difficult to teach art via a remote camera and still provide quality engagement and feedback for individual students. There is also a low level of interest from our tutors and students for this form of teaching. Other centres have cancelled their online classes due to lack of demand.

The office, in consultation with our tutors, is however looking at a plan that would involve splitting classes between studios or over two days, so we can limit the number of students per studio and still practice social distancing. This is not an easy exercise as we don't typically have studios vacant during the week. Some tutors have already indicated that they are not going to return until term 3 so we might be able to reallocate studios to accommodate at least the start of some classes.

But Louise and her team are looking at all the options and will take these factors and the feedback from tutors and students into consideration. We are just as keen to see classes restart at the WAC but only when it is safe and practical to do so.

In the meantime, I hope that you are all continuing with your artmaking from home and we look forward to seeing what has been produced during the forced lockdown.

Standby for more updates when we have any new information.

Kind regards

Harvey Cassie
WAC President

If you need any health-related information, please contact NSW Health on 1800 022 222 or visit www.health.nsw.gov.au



33 Laurel St, Willoughby
NSW 2068

02 9958 6540
admin@workshoparts.org.au

acn. 001 263 672

www.workshoparts.org.au

The Workshop Arts Centre is an independent not-for-profit art centre and workshop facility established in 1961 to promote and foster appreciation in the creative and visual arts.