

ABN 74 662 601 045

Monday, 9 August 2021

Ian Davis  
Acting Executive Director  
Catholic Education Services  
130 Lake St  
Cairns Qld 4870

Via email: [idavis@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:idavis@cns.catholic.edu.au)

Dear Ian

### **Re: School staff attendance during Cairns lockdown**

We note that our union has yet to receive a reply to our urgent request emailed to you on Sunday, 8 August 2021.

IEU members report ongoing confusion and uncertainty in relation to the critical issue of staffing arrangements to apply this week.

While we appreciate that different schools may be at different stages of their transition to remote work, it is essential that all schools prioritise an immediate transition to limited on site attendance.

The [state government directive for Cairns](#) has authorised workplace attendance by essential workers only in cases where the employee is unable to perform their work remotely. The requirement in the directives is clear:

***“Essential work is work that cannot be done from your home”.***

The vast majority of Cairns education workers, within Education QLD and independent schools, will move to remote work as from Tuesday, 10 August.

It is imperative that Cairns Catholic schools show a similar degree of urgency.

Of particular concern are reports from at least one Cairns Catholic school that full staff attendance will be required from Monday to Wednesday this week.

We ask that CES provide an unequivocal direction to their affected schools that the transition to remote work and limited onsite attendance must occur as soon as possible.

Our union seeks your response by 3:00pm today, Monday, 9 August 2021.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Burke".

**TERRY BURKE**  
**BRANCH SECRETARY**

*cc- Deborah Crotty, Manager Human Resource Administration*