



CROMWELL COLLEGE

within The University of Queensland

31 March 2020

To the Cromwell College Community,

Thank you again to everyone in our community who has been so supportive of my approach to dealing with the situation in which we find ourselves.

Over the past three weeks, I have tried for academic and pastoral considerations to give our 247 students flexibility around staying at Cromwell or returning home, whilst obviously encouraging the latter with online support where practicable for the reasons contained in my earlier letters.

The Prime Minister has recently made further announcements to reduce the community spread of COVID-19. This includes implications for some of my staff, along with further restrictions on gatherings. In short, it has become increasingly difficult to continue to operate Cromwell as a residential community effectively in this environment.

From Thursday 9 April 2020 (4pm) until further notice, Cromwell College will pause offering residential accommodation to students. The College will however continue to remain open to all of our students online. Students therefore will continue to have online access to staff. This includes the Counsellor, Senior Tutor, Academic Mentors, Tutors and the Resident Assistants.

Over the past week, we have been speaking with our students here to ascertain their plans as a contingency should this situation occur. We currently have just twenty students here of which seventeen have another option.

The three others can be accommodated in three recently vacated apartment rooms in Campus Lodge. This modern and recently renovated facility is owned by Cromwell, is located directly across the road, and is self-catered with two and four bedroom apartment style accommodation each with bathrooms and fully equipped kitchens. Staff will step in if and when needed to assist the three students who remain here.

The date (Thursday 9 April) may be brought forward if announcements by authorities necessitate it. Although I am giving you adequate notice of our date from which to pause residential accommodation, given the uncertain and changing times in which we are all operating, I encourage students (and their parents) to expedite vacating ahead of that date if this is logistically possible.

At Cromwell we believe that we provide a great service to our students at a realistic price. We also understand that the greater majority of that service has not been possible this semester due to the COVID-19 issue. We therefore feel that it is appropriate that we provide a refund to families.

Walcott Street, St Lucia OLD 4067 Australia

P +61 7 3377 1300 **F** +61 7 3377 1499 **E** stay@cromwell.uq.edu.au **W** www.cromwell.uq.edu.au

Principal Mr Ross A. Switzer M.Ed.(Deakin), B.Ed.St.(QLD), Dip.T.(QUT), MAICD

ABN 12 375 462 554

At this stage, although not confirmed, I feel that it is unlikely that Cromwell College will return to normal in the original time frame of first semester.

It is on that basis that I am now going to refund in full, fees paid from the date that students officially logged their departure with me, through until the end of the first semester enrolment contract. This refund excludes the Foundation levy which is in place to support the broad bursary and capital development programs, rather than day to day expenses.

Should the first semester resume as a residential option at Cromwell, then fees would be charged at that time for the period involved.

Jason March (Business Manager) or Heather Ebertson (Assistant Business Manager) will be in touch with you regarding the mechanics of refunding your Cromwell fees.

Thank you again for your support and understanding throughout the ongoing COVID-19 issue. As we approach what would be the mid semester break, it is great to be able to report that we have had no symptoms or cases of COVID-19 across our students or staff here at Cromwell.

It is still unclear when we will be able to have our students back on site, and I will be in touch again when we are clearer about a return date for everyone.

In the meantime, stay safe, look out for each other, and make use of the online services available at Cromwell until we can all be back together again.

Kind regards



Ross A. Switzer
PRINCIPAL