

April 3, 2020

Victorian Government – Term 2, Remote and Flexible Learning Arrangements

On Tuesday April 7, Premier Daniel Andrews and the Minister for the Coordination of Education and Training, James Merlino announced alternative school arrangements for Term 2, 2020.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, all Victorian government primary, secondary and special schools will move to remote and flexible learning and teaching.

The Government is also working with Catholic and Independent Schools to coordinate and assist with their remote and flexible learning arrangements.

Exceptions

The Government has directed that all students who can learn at home must learn from home – with exceptions only in extremely limited circumstances. On-site learning will only be available for children whose parents are unable to work from home and students without access to a suitable learning environment at home.

Selected groups of VCE and VCAL students can also attend on-site for short periods if their learning requirements cannot be conducted at home.

Physical distancing provisions will be made for the safety for teachers and kids.

Hardware to Households

To ensure all students can learn from home, the Government will loan more than 6,000 laptops and tablets to students who don't have access to digital technologies. Schools will distribute necessary learning devices as required to students who do not have access to a laptop.

Expanding Access to Internet

The Government will provide free SIM cards or dongles to thousands of students at government schools, on a need's basis. This includes an agreement with Telstra to provide 4000 SIM cards for government primary and secondary school students. The Government has also purchased an extra 1000 SIM-enabled dongle devices.

Priority for the SIM cards and dongles will be given to senior secondary students, students in bushfire affected areas, and families who cannot afford an internet connection at home.

Schedule Adjustments

Victorian government schools begin classes in this arrangement on Wednesday 15 April. These new arrangements will remain in place for the duration of Term 2 and will then be reviewed.

VCE students will still receive an ATAR score, but there will be several changes to the academic timetable for VCE and VCAL students:

- The GAT test will move from June to October or November
- End of year exams will be postponed until at least December

School based assessment tasks will be reduced where possible to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements.



Universities will be asked to delay the start of the 2021 university year to account for impacts of coronavirus on senior secondary students.

Further announcements related to student support and restrictions will follow the Tuesday, 7 April National Cabinet meeting.

Further information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant JP Blandthorn, Victorian Director on +61 407 366 304 or Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at rmengem@hawkerbritton.com.

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For further coverage of Liberal Government Response Packages to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).