

March 20, 12.15pm

All staff email from Professor David G. Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President

I was drafting this email about how proud I am of the University of South Australia, its staff and students when I received the very sad news that UniSA Emeritus Professor and former Vice-Chancellor Denise Bradley passed away earlier this morning. *Vale* Denise. Her importance to and impact on higher education in this nation cannot be overstated and we celebrate her life and contributions to UniSA and beyond.

We have experienced a truly extraordinary week. With so many complex moving parts and so many shifting externalities and pressures to react to – our staff have risen to the challenge. They have been professional and committed and they've worked extremely hard to adapt to our circumstances as we prepare to modify our working arrangements to support our students in their continued education and the conduct of our core business of teaching and research. For that I am immensely grateful and immeasurably proud of our institution.

As you know, we are gearing up for the temporary transition to online education in all lectures and tutorials from next week. Research and enterprise preparedness are similarly underway. We are implementing appropriate social distancing measures across the board and in any face-to-face teaching, learning or research environments on campus. We have repatriated students and staff who were offshore. We have taken appropriate steps to de-risk our business continuity through alternate work arrangements and provisions. Our support systems have all been ramped up to deal with the understandably large increase in queries from both students and staff.

There has been a tremendous amount of work done in a very short space of time and some outstanding outcomes achieved. Thank you all.

As we prep for 'go live' I just want to re-iterate how important it is that course coordinators contact all students enrolled in their courses, before close of business today, Friday 20th March, to update them on accessing online content from next week and any other arrangements that have been put in place to manage their education provision at this time.

I also wanted to summarise a few key elements for you in this email – synthesising what feels like a year's work from across the last four days into some readily accessible links:

I ask that you please familiarise yourself with the staff and student FAQs on the [COVID-19 coronavirus information webpage](#). This is the most up-to-date and informed repository of University COVID-19 resources and have been extensively updated – including with details on COVID-19 employment and support arrangements for all staff, including casual staff.

Here is a link to new guidance from People Talent & Culture on [remote working](#).

The [enhanced TIU support webpage](#) has been extensively updated to ensure that staff can quickly and easily find the resources they require.

Our DVC: R&E has recorded a brief video message for researchers [here](#).

Of course, our **academic organisational transformation** is also still progressing at full pace, ahead of the change-over to our new structures on April 6th. A newsletter on this and the impact of COVID-19 on the process will issue early next week.

As always, I re-iterate the current public health advice – **if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend at the university until fully recovered**, seek the appropriate medical advice as required and act to minimise the risk of infection for others.

Students with questions relating to their study can contact [Campus Central](#). For any student enquires relating to health and wellbeing please contact seu@unisa.edu.au for assistance, advice and support. Staff may also contact seu@unisa.edu.au if they have any questions or concerns regarding a student's health or wellbeing.

Staff members with any questions are asked to please contact your local [People, Talent and Culture Business Partner](#) or email PTC@unisa.edu.au.

I do intend to hold **an online Q&A session** with staff in the course of next week to check in on how we are travelling – I'll send more details on the logistics of that to you in due course.

So, as it is with all things in these uncertain times, can I ask for your patience and for continued pragmatism, calm and collegiality as we work through these considerations.

Lastly, I hope you have, and take, the opportunity to rest, relax and decompress over the coming weekend. The current health crisis will pass in time, we are seeing breakthroughs in control rates, SA Health advised us this morning that there is no evidence of community transmission within South Australia, and there are early signs of advances in potential therapeutic interventions on a daily basis. Please remember that social distancing does not mean social isolation and rejection. Grappling with all that is going on takes a toll emotionally on us all as we deal with uncertainty and change.

Look after yourselves and those around you.