Dear students,

I hope your studies are progressing well in the online learning environment. I continue to be extremely impressed by the positivity and resilience demonstrated by our student body in adapting to the changes brought upon us by COVID-19.

This email provides you with some important updates and reminders to guide you in the weeks ahead.

**Relaxation of restrictions in WA**

In positive news, the WA Government has begun to lift some of the state’s social distancing restrictions thanks to our progress in flattening the curve. While the latest announcement makes little difference to the way we will need to complete Semester 1 at this point, it is a good sign that Semester 2 may look something closer to normal.

Just to be clear, ECU’s current online delivery of courses and units will continue for the remainder of this semester and will not change. There will also be no further changes to revised assessment schedules for Semester 1.

However, the lifting of some restrictions does mean that some practical activities (that have not been able to be offered online and may have been delayed as a result), can now be offered on campus to small groups in accordance with social distancing requirements. There are a number of provisos to this happening to ensure that no students are disadvantaged.

If you are advised by a unit coordinator that one of your practical activities will resume on campus in Semester 1, it will be because the activity has met important criteria, including that it is necessary to meet the learning outcomes of that unit. Your unit coordinator can explain the ways in which social distancing and hygiene precautions will be implemented to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

Research students who may be considering recommencing research should discuss this with their supervisors, Associate Deans (Research) and with the Graduate Research School.

**Semester 2**

Semester 2 will commence on Monday, July 27. I would very much like to provide our students with a clear picture of what Semester 2 will look like. Unfortunately, this is not yet possible due to the dynamic nature of COVID-19 and the current status of the government response.

Please know these two important things: (1) I will keep you updated in a very timely manner, and (2) ECU is really looking forward to resuming our vibrant campus life in as normal a manner as possible. We will continue
to move as quickly and safely as government advice allows us to do. We expect to be able to provide more details in the coming weeks as restrictions are adjusted.

Additional support

ECU’s support staff have been working around the clock to respond to students’ needs and build on the resources we have to help you through this period. Please look through the list below in case there is something that may be of help to you at the moment:

- **Personal safety and wellbeing.** Domestic and family violence impacts many people in our community. It affects every aspect of a person’s life, including their work and study. If you need help or guidance at this time, please reach out – we are here to help. Find out more [here](#). Everyone has the right to feel safe and supported.

- **Student support calendar.** It’s really important to stay socially connected at this time, so ECU has developed this weekly [calendar of online activities](#) you can get involved in. Why not sign up for something today?

- **Help with assignments.** If you need some extra help with research or referencing, you can book a [15-minute appointment](#) with a librarian for direct assistance. You can also book an online appointment with a [Learning Adviser](#) to help understand the requirements of your assessment tasks. And for all online learning queries, you can chat to a [virtual support person](#) for real-time guidance.

- **Food insecurity.** We know some students are facing significant financial hardship right now. Our ECU Student Guild is currently distributing boxes of essential grocery items for those in need. You can apply (and also donate) [here](#).

Finally, today is University Mental Health Day. I want to remind each of you to continue to look out for yourselves and each other. It’s important to do so every day, but especially during this current period of disconnection. Please take care and never hesitate to ask for help.

Sincerely,

Professor Steve Chapman
Vice-Chancellor

For more information about this email, contact 6304 2205.

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