

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on APLS Programs

APLS Community,

As you are aware the cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to grow not only around the world but also in Australia. It is vital that we continue to work together for the benefit of everyone in our community during these times.

Since my last communication, the World Health Organisation has now officially declared the COVID-19 virus a worldwide pandemic. Several state-based agencies and healthcare networks have now placed travel, training and leave restrictions on staff.

We are therefore now in a situation where we cannot guarantee that we can continue to deliver our high-quality training programs to our candidates. We are fully aware that this is a national health emergency and redirecting resources to core medical services is a high priority for our nation and appreciate and understand the impact that this virus is having on all our lives.

Australian Teaching Programs

Effective immediately, all APLS courses will be cancelled and we will be planning to resume our teaching programs from July 2020.

We will be notifying all future candidates and faculty directly informing them of this change and offering them priority on our future courses.

Please be reassured that we will be waiving any change or cancellation fees for candidates affected by this. We will do our utmost to support you to get on to another APLS course as soon as practicable.

We currently have a waitlist of over 200 candidates across our main teaching programs and we will be contacting all those members shortly to advise them on how to enrol/confirm their attendance and preferences for future courses.

We will be also adding additional courses from July and into 2021 in order to meet this demand.

International Teaching Programs

As previously advised all international teaching programs are currently on hold due to the high risks involved. The unpredictable closure of international borders, differing quarantine protocols and stress on local health infrastructure means that it is unlikely that we will be able to travel internationally for some time. We will be holding a meeting of the international committee to discuss the impact on each course very soon.

PAC 2020

We will cancel our PAC 2020 conference and have begun discussions with our colleagues in New Zealand about having a bigger than ever PAC 2021 conference in NZ and more information on that will follow in due course.

Head Office Operations

In Melbourne we will be getting ready for the re-starting of our courses in July and will take this time to evaluate many of the systems, processes and policies that directly impact our APLS Community.

We can be contacted via the same emails and phone numbers and we aim to be fully staffed during this period.

We have a wonderfully supportive and engaged APLS community, driven by a passion to deliver excellence in the emergency care of ill and injured children.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information or clarification.

Sincerely



Rod Wealands

CEO

14 March 2020