

ASSOCIATED INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



STATEMENT

The AIC Management Committee met this morning to discuss the combined response of schools to the latest news on coronavirus (COVID-19). We were pleased to hear of the progress at St Edmund's College Ipswich, where a Year 11 student was diagnosed with coronavirus earlier this week. The student is being well cared for and hopes to make a speedy recovery. The thoughts and prayers of the AIC community are with him, his family and St Edmund's College.

Last weekend, the student was a competitor in an AIC match against St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe. Fortunately, Queensland Health remains hopeful that the exposure of players last weekend to coronavirus remains low. St Edmund's College will be closed for at least the rest of this week while Queensland Health has been in contact with St Patrick's College as part of the contact-tracing process.

These events were considered strongly today as the AIC Management Committee discussed upcoming fixtures. We have been grateful for the opportunity to play rugby union, football, chess, basketball, tennis and have cross country during this school term.

On Friday night all chess teams were competing at a central venue and, on Saturday, a unique day was scheduled for rugby union and football with teams from each school playing at the same venue according to their age. For instance, all open matches were scheduled for Marist College Ashgrove, meaning all eight schools will be represented at the one venue across rugby union and football.

Given the events of the last week and ongoing advice from Queensland Health, the AIC Management Committee has decided that all AIC sporting events and fixtures will be cancelled immediately.

The events cancelled are:

- This afternoon's track and field pre-season meet
- Friday's final rounds of fixtures for chess
- Saturday's final rounds of fixtures for rugby union and football
- The rugby league competitions scheduled for Friday September 18 (Primary) and Monday and Tuesday September 21/22 (Years 7-12)

We will reserve a decision on the AIC Track and Field championships in Term 4, pending any further developments with COVID-19.

We understand that this decision will be disappointing for many participants, particularly those in their senior year. The Management Committee shares that disappointment. However, we made the decision on the basis of the health and safety of all participants, their families and the broader community. On that basis, we believe today's decision is the most responsible action.

The AIC Management Committee is appreciative of the support and understanding of the members within our Colleges during this time.

AIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE