



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **COVID-19 and the impact on Australia's Science Teachers**

The Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA), recognises that in the light of the evolving situation around COVID-19, teachers of science are being asked to adapt to significant changes in their way of working. We note that many of the changes precipitated by COVID-19 are coming quickly, leaving teachers of science short time frames in which to develop proficiency in new ways of doing things or communicating with their students, and to problem solve or find alternatives to ensure delivery of curriculum to students.

ASTA President Nathan Curnow stated that *'Whilst we celebrate how adaptable and resourceful science teachers can be, it is important to note that these changes have significant ramifications for teacher workload and efficacy as they do their best to support the learning of students'*. For many teachers, there are also concerns about their students' ability and capacity to access their learning remotely and digitally and the flow-on effects this will have.

ASTA acknowledges the challenges for those teachers affected by COVID-19 in other ways; those who are parents; those who support individuals who are vulnerable or immune-compromised; those in areas where resources are limited; and those who may also still be recovering from the impacts of the recent bushfires.

As the national federation of Science Teacher Associations we respect the severity of this pandemic, the short lead times between decisions and the evidence-based decision making that underpins responses at different levels of government, but we call on the Government to engage with us early, utilise our expertise in developing appropriate responses and involve us in communicating decisions out to our members.

For science teachers, you can rest assured that we see you and hear your concerns. We encourage you to communicate your needs through your State and Territory Science Teacher Associations who are best placed to advocate for and support you as teachers of science.

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