

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all well. I know the coronavirus situation has been ongoing for a long time now. There has been a lot happening, our offices have been closed and there have been businesses closed for a period of time.

Our last update was in June/July and it is already September now and soon it will be October.

I have a few things to let you know about. I know you are wondering how things are going at Expression and our Launceston and Hobart offices and what is happening with staff.

Our Launceston and Hobart offices are still closed. Staff are still working. Staff are working from home and in the community. Each staff member has a designated day on a roster when they can work in the office.

You can contact staff by sms or email but there will be some time before you receive a response – it could be 24 – 48 hours. With staff working out of the office and working from home with a limited time in the office – this will cause a delay in response. We ask for your patience in waiting for a response.

If you need to see Jeanette, myself, Amy, Jo or Joyce it is better to sms or email to make an appointment to see them. This will avoid the disappointment of coming to the office but no-one is there. We have to limit how many people are in the office at the same time. Our coronavirus Safety Plan allows for 1 visitor at a time. We must clean the building after a visitor leaves, ready for the next visitor.

Even though there have been no cases of coronavirus for a while, it could still be around, so we need to be careful. Even though our borders are closed there are people who have permission to come to Tasmania. We have trucks bringing freight/cargo with food and supplies from Melbourne to Devonport. There is also our timber industry continuing to send freight out of the state. People working on the freight vehicles are not required to quarantine for 14 days. We haven't had any cases of coronavirus but still need to be careful and observe the guidelines. Hopefully our borders will open up more with time – we will keep you informed.

Just a reminder that when you contact staff it can take time to receive a response. Staff can meet you outside the office at a café or the library or your home if you wish.

Unfortunately coronavirus caused a delay with our newsletter. Our newsletter will be sent out around the middle of October – you will be able to catch up on all the news soon.

The bbq that was planned for October/November this year in Hobart, sadly is postponed until hopefully February 2021. This depends of Government rules for events and gatherings. We will keep an eye on this and let you know.

That brings me to Christmas events. Due to government guidelines, Expression can't organize any events for Christmas. If people in the community want to organize something, that is allowable but Expression as an organization can't due to the responsibility we would have for peoples health. We are not encouraging you to organize an event – it is probably better not to, but the decision is yours. Just remember social distancing, bump elbows rather than hug and wash your hands often. Coronavirus could still be around. We would love to organize a get together after all this time but Government guidelines means we can't organize anything. Maybe in 2021 and 2022 we will be able to. Our staff are not allowed to join in any event with you, due to Government guidelines. We don't want to risk passing on illness to the community.

Chris Mathieson, our CEO has left. Andrew Lyall is Acting CEO. We will have a new CEO starting and when that is announced we will let you know. This should be soon.

Staff are still working - it has been quite busy. Ali and Joyce have been busy with VRI Interpreting. Joyce is now working in my old office. Ali and Joyce now have their own rooms for VRI Interpreting because it has been so busy.

That is the end of my update – we wanted to make sure you are all alright.

You are welcome to contact us any time. Remember you may have to wait for a response. If you want to contact us by skype or zoom but need help with that, we can show you how to do this.

We will have more updates regularly.

Look after yourselves, keep well. Warmer weather is coming soon. It will be summer soon. My favourite time of the year is summer, I like the warmer weather.

Take care of yourselves. We will have another update soon and the newsletter will be coming soon too.

Thank you