

PSA MEMBERS RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE

Agencies across Government are in the process of arranging for those employees who have been working remotely during the COVID-19 situation to return to the workplace.

PSA members need to be aware that this process needs to be done in accordance with the advice from the Department of Health. The pandemic is not over and even though South Australia has done very well in containing the spread of the virus, the last thing anyone wants is a second wave.

The Commissioner for Public Sector Employment has developed documents to support this:

- [Workforce Considerations for the SA Public Sector: Transitioning Back to the Workplace](#)
- [Safe Workforce Return Toolkit](#)

The PSA welcomes the development of these resources for agencies. They are also based on guidance from SafeWork Australia. The following principles are reflected in these documents:

- The top priority should be the physical and emotional safety and wellbeing of employees and the people with whom they deal.
- Agencies should have developed a clear plan prior to staff returning to the workplace.
- Employees should not return *en masse* but should re-enter the workplace in waves in order to test controls that have been put in place and ensure physical distancing can occur.
- Consultation with staff, work health and safety representatives and the PSA should occur.
- The needs of vulnerable workers should continue to be considered.
- Casual staff who were laid off should be re-employed if possible.

The PSA has prepared letters for Chief Executives to ensure there are appropriate plans in place and members are consulted and protected from the risk.

Many agencies are still facilitating staff working remotely and are not rushing people back to their workplaces without careful consideration and planning or prior to consulting with their staff.

If you have any concerns about the process of returning to the workplace, please contact your PSA Organiser directly or the PSA Members' Rights Hotline on 8205 3227.

We wish to once again thank all our members who have continued to work hard during this time to keep our state running and support our community. Some of your work may be less visible to the community and rarely recognised, yet is absolutely crucial at any time, especially during a crisis.

If you have colleagues who are not yet members of the PSA, please take the time to ask them to join. They can [join online here](#) or by contacting the PSA.

PROTECTION IN NUMBERS

Contact: PSA Enquiries, enquiries@cpsu.asn.au

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Please distribute to all PSA Members.