

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

OPEN LETTER to:

**Leanne Compton**, VCAA Curriculum Manager, Design and Technologies; **Justin Seabury**, VCAA Assessment Operations Manager; **Barbara Elvin**, VCAA Manager Student Records and Results; **Geoff O'Neill**, VCAA Senior Project Manager Curriculum; **Robyn Douglas**, VCAA Curriculum Project Manager

**Subject: The Safe Delivery of VCE Product Design and Technology during Stage 4 Lockdown**

Dear Leanne and VCAA colleagues,

I am writing on behalf of our members who teach VCE Product Design & Technology to get some clarity about how they should proceed with delivering Unit 4 based on yesterday's announcement from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education regarding a return to online learning for senior students.

DATTA Vic has already received numerous inquiries from our members on how the PD&T SAT and Unit 4 should be assessed now it will not be possible for our students to make their products as mandated in the 2020 VCE Product Design & Technology Study Design.

We believe the VCAA cannot expect students to continue production at home as this would be inequitable as well as unsafe and would require many students to be sourcing materials, components and tools during a period of stage 4 restrictions. We are also not advocating for an exception to restrictions for our students and teachers as the risk of infection is so high in many communities.

As an active teachers' association, we are deeply concerned about the physical and mental health of teachers and students. Our members have also expressed concerns about any possible increase in workload to compensate for lack of production this term.

All parties are seeking certainty and direction to help inform their students as soon as possible to reduce stress and risk of injury and infection. Effective and timely communication with schools is crucial to provide clarity and to reduce the anxiety and stress of students, teachers and parents.

We thank you for your hard work, understanding and guidance during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Travis Burroughs  
President  
DATTA Vic