



Term 3, 2020

Hard to believe it is already Term 3; what a unique year it has been! Congratulations to all QTU members for the role you each played in one of the most significant revolutions in education history. On top of that, the multiple changes throughout Term 2 in relation to curriculum delivery, assessment, reporting, and meetings (just to name a few) will be remembered as one of the greatest periods of professional development ever! As we prepare for the second half of the year, it is important that we are informed and ready for what lies ahead.

Ben Vercoe,
QTU Organiser
Metro South

Online ballot – The results from this have been published in [Newsflash No. 34-20](#) and a path forward will be pursued in order to continue to address workload in the condensed time frame of term 3. Progress will be reviewed at State Council on 22 August and further member action will be considered if progress is unsatisfactory.

Conversion from temporary to permanent employment – In EB9, the QTU secured improved access to the temp to perm process, reducing service time for eligibility from three to two years. While that is a significant win, the department has been slow to convert the win into action; it is now indicating offers will commence in the first week of Term 3. It is essential that employees awaiting an offer of conversion retain continuity of employment to remain eligible. For more details regarding eligibility and the conversion process, check out [Newsflash No.28-20](#) from 24 June.

Experienced senior teacher – Applications using the new process are now open. Another EB9 win by the QTU, the new application process sees members able to access the pay point throughout the year, rather than once a year. This represents a real financial win for eligible members. The application forms are available online only at the department's [EST OnePortal page](#). Members who became eligible for EST whilst this new process was finalised and apply this year will have their classification and pay back-dated to the date of eligibility. Further information, including FAQs, are located [here](#).

Senior teacher – As with EST, there is a new and improved application process for becoming a senior teacher; yet another win secured by the QTU during EB9 negotiations. For enquiries related to eligibility, please contact the Teacher Classification Team on tct@qed.qld.gov.au

COVID-19 operating guidelines – Term 3 [operating guidelines](#) were recently updated on 24 July. Importantly, the **definition of and provisions for vulnerable employees remain in place**. Key features of the guidelines include:

- resumption of student assemblies, catering for the social distancing requirements of adults
- meetings can be conducted face to face, provided social distancing can be exercised and a video/teleconference option is available
- guidelines for instrumental music and practical subjects
- vulnerable workers and students to continue working/learning from home
- excursions, camps, school sport, formals and graduations can proceed with businesses with COVID-safe plans
- specialised health procedures and guidelines for special schools, outdoor environmental education centres, playgroups and early childhood development programs, resulting in a single document for all settings

- continued attendance and gathering restrictions for non-essential adults on and around school grounds - *the QTU is particularly mindful of this and will continue to minimise attendance and operate in virtual spaces until this aspect of the guidelines is relaxed.*

The new normal – Like so many facets of life post COVID-19, the QTU has had to change the way it interacts with members. Our school visits will need to be with individuals or small groups and in some cases, I may just be meeting with workplace representatives and school leaders. However, I am still available through appointments, phone calls or email.

Occupational violence prevention – because work should never hurt

The QTU has developed a range of resources to support schools in occupational violence prevention, which can be found on the QTU website at www.qtu.asn.au/occupationalviolence. On this page, you will find short self-paced professional development modules, as well as a package that can be run at schools. You will see more about this in the coming months as we all learn to recognise, report and respond to occupational violence in the workplace.

It's that time of the year again... tax time - 2019/2020 Member tax statements are now available online. Login [here](#), then click "Manage your membership".

Tax tips for teachers

Wondering which teaching-related expenses are tax deductible? TMB has spoken to the ATO about what those working in the education sector can claim: [Tax Tips for Teachers](#).



New Educator Connect – new and improved!

We know you're busy, we know your inbox is overflowing; but we also know that it's super important to stay on top of the issues that are impacting beginning teachers right now!

We value our members and we value your time – and we also value any opportunity to inform and empower you. So, we've put together "bite-sized chunks" (a technical term!) of the most important information you need to know about your profession and your working conditions.

You can access a range of articles via the image on the right – we guarantee you will learn something new!



As advertised in the *QTU New Educator Connect*: Teacher-only discounts with Frankie4, 99 Bikes and EDSCO for Teachers' Union Health members.

TUH has been part of the education community family since 1972. They know their members are pretty special. That's why they have put together a boutique series of *wellbeing benefits*, with brilliant every-day discounts on brands such as FRANKIE4, Adrift Clothing, 99 Bikes, Edsco, Woolworths, Coles, Priceline Pharmacy, The Good Guys and many more. For more information, [click here](#). TUH encourages all QTU members to join and take advantage of the great *wellbeing benefits*.



Kind regards,

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