



Nungalinya College

Empowering Indigenous Christians

Nungalinya College Indigenous Corporation
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Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear staff, students and supporters of Nungalinya College,

Amidst the growing concern about the spreading of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we remain committed to supplying accurate information to our staff, students and supporters. At Nungalinya, we have been affirming the facts that 'coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia. Some people recover easily, others may get very sick very quickly. There is evidence that it spreads from person to person. Good hygiene can prevent infection' <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>.

At one level, we are committed to carrying on with our normal business of teaching and learning together at the College whilst maintaining good hygiene habits. However, Nungalinya has a number of unique factors to take into consideration:

- A majority of students fall into the more 'vulnerable' category due to age and pre-existing medical conditions.
- At College, students live in close proximity, staying in hostel units, mostly sharing rooms, dining and bathroom facilities.
- Students travel in from a large range of communities and could potentially carry the virus back home unwittingly.
- Some communities are advising people to stay in their home community.

We are also considering the approaches taken by our partner churches and the recommendation from the Northern Territory government in relation to cancelling non-essential travel to remote communities <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-11/coronavirus-response-plan-nt-government-remote-communities/12043482>.

Therefore, we have decided to postpone the classes planned for the remainder of Term 1. Students in Foundation Studies and Music/Media who are already at Nungalinya will remain to complete their intensive blocks as planned. The situation will be monitored and a decision made concerning Term 2 classes in the future weeks.

Please pray that Coronavirus (COVID-19) remains out of remote Indigenous communities and that students at Nungalinya remain calm and healthy as they complete their studies.

Yours in Christ,

Ben van Gelderen