



12 July 2021

Hon Greg Hunt
Minister for Health
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Hunt

RE: Priority access for teachers and educators as front line workers

United Workers Union (UWU), The Australian Education Union (AEU) and the Independent Education Union (IEU) seek that educators, teachers and education support staff across early learning and school settings are provided higher priority access to COVID 19 vaccinations in recognition of their critical role providing an essential community service.

We note that recent outbreaks resulting in lockdowns have again revealed the critical role schools and early learning services play in supporting children and families. We recognise that in all recent lockdowns except the Northern Territory, early learning services were required to remain open as a front-line essential service and that schools in greater Sydney have been required to return to online learning. Teachers, educators and education support staff are feeling overwhelming stress and anxiety as a result of safety concerns and increased workloads to manage impacts of lockdowns and remote learning.

Millions of families and children rely on schools and early learning services each and every day. The fastest way to minimise the impact of any future COVID outbreaks on the community is to ensure that schools and early learning services can remain open with fully vaccinated staff.

Schools and early learning services provide a critical societal function and ensuring the health and safety of the teachers, educators and support staff is vital to ensuring this work can continue. In addition, ensuring staff are fully vaccinated is also the most effective way to minimise the risk of infection amongst children, especially with new variants emerging.

We call on you to confirm higher priority of access of COVID 19 vaccinations to all teachers, educators and education support staff as frontline workers, following the current priorities of aged care, healthcare, disability care, border and quarantine and other vulnerable worker populations.

We seek an urgent meeting to discuss this matter. Please contact Laura Stevens laura.stevens@unitedworkers.org.au 0431 380 471 to find a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,



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