



Media Release

EMBARGOED until 12:01am, 5 December 2020

Enquiries: communications@unyouth.org.au or 0478 893 183.

An update on COVID-19 and our responses.

UN Youth Australia has been regularly monitoring and acting upon developments surrounding COVID-19. Over the weekend, UN Youth Tasmania made the decision to cancel their State Conference as a precautionary measure to prevent any possible health consequences. UN Youth Victoria, ACT, Northern Territory, and Western Australia have all decided to cancel or postpone their upcoming conferences in light of the recent developments.

On Saturday night, a volunteer started showing some low-level symptoms of COVID-19 due to being on board the same flight the weekend prior to the event (Sydney to Hobart) as the fourth Tasmanian case of COVID-19. The Department of Health told her that while it was a low risk that she had the virus, she should self-isolate. They advised that there was no need for anyone else to self-isolate at this time.

Since the incident, this person has been tested negative for COVID-19 and is no longer in self-isolation. Nobody else at this event has been advised to isolate, either by UN Youth or the Department of Health.

UN Youth Australia have strictly followed the guidelines provided by the Department of Health and the Public Health Information Hotline at all stages. They have advised that there is minimal risk to participants and emphasise that the event was decided to be cancelled as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

UN Youth Australia sincerely apologise for the difficulty, stress and disappointment this may have caused.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Chief Communications Officer, Sarah Ramantanis, at communications@unyouth.org.au or 0478 893 183.

About the COVID-19.

This week, the head of the World Health Organisation told the United Nations that COVID-19, the formal name for the new coronavirus, was a global pandemic. This means that it's a contagious, dangerous disease, which is currently spreading quickly and sometimes uncontrollably.

Health experts say the most important thing we can all do right now is to stay home if we're feeling unwell.

The government has also advised that non-essential gatherings of 100 or more people are to be avoided.

Even if you have the strength and immunity to recover from the virus, your neighbours may not. We can all help minimise the spread of COVID-19 to our communities.

The other actions you should take right now are:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently,
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow, or a tissue,
- Avoid large gatherings of people.

UN Youth Australia encourages all to follow the guidelines provided by The Department of Health and the Public Health Information hotline at all stages for guidance.