



AdventureWorks WA - Press Release

DATE: Friday, 11th February 2022

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on school camps, excursions and incursions in Western Australia

On Monday 7/2/2022, WA Premier Mark McGowan unexpectedly [introduced a raft of new COVID-19 protocols](#) for schools and face-to-face service providers in our industry, which will see all school camps, excursions and incursions postponed or cancelled until further notice.

These new rules are in addition to [WA's Safe Return to School Plan](#), and are intended to reduce the risk of viral transmission in school environments, while keeping students in school and able to continue learning.

AdventureWorks WA supports the efforts of the West Australian government, and we appreciate the challenging environment that COVID-19 has created for all schools, teachers, students, parents, carers and the many businesses and organisations that provide vital services to schools.

Despite the sudden nature of these latest policy changes, AdventureWorks WA company directors Mary and Scott Wood are resolute:

“These latest COVID-19 protocols will mean that our industry will need to adapt its approach to stay relevant and provide much-needed support to highschool communities.”

“As our ‘normal’ way of Australian life continues to be disrupted, young people need guidance and opportunities more than ever so they can develop the critical life skills to reach adulthood as healthy, resilient people.”

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“Schools and teachers are also being asked to achieve more-with-less in a rapidly changing environment, so they need training and support in order to cope with the emotional pressures of doing their job while helping their students navigate the typical challenges of teenage years.”

“Since 1994 we have grown to become a leading provider of outdoor adventure experiences, school camps, wilderness expeditions, and delivered our signature Into Adulthood program to more than 100,000 students, teachers and families.”

“Though our preference is to work with schools in an outdoor camp or wilderness setting, we have developed a variety of ways to deliver our programs using online, offline or hybrid methods, and we’re working with all our clients to ensure there is minimal disruption to scheduled activities.”

“By utilising outdoor spaces, staggered timeslots, reduced group numbers, fully vaccinated facilitators, onsite Rapid Antigen Testing, and elearning packages, we’re able to provide a high degree of support while rescheduling outdoor camping and adventure experiences to the soonest opportunity.”

Shadow Education Minister Peter Rundle said the strongarm approach by the Minister of Education of cancelling all external outings showed a lack of planning to deal with COVID-19.

“School camp excursions are a critical part of the curriculum, and the grounds are more likely to be isolated from other areas of the community compared to school campuses,” Mr Rundle said.

Almost 477,000 students have returned to classrooms across Western Australia this week amidst an array of COVID-19 control measures including face masks, vaccinations, hand sanitizer, physical distancing, and contact tracing.