



Year 12 Exit inequity for the Class of 2021

“In a year of further challenges and disruptions the final straw for the Class of 2021 graduates is the ad hoc approach occurring regarding their final examinations” claimed Sharron Healy, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) today. “Further to this in some states our young people in their final year of school have missed out on huge chunks of classroom learning.”

“We also know that many of our Year 12 students are having to support families in crisis, increasing their part time work hours or caring for younger and extended family members. It seems these same students are now to be asked to sit exams as if it is a normal year”.

ACSSO has conducted a number of surveys and has spoken with many families, and it has clearly revealed inequities in access and opportunity for these students in their final year. The well-being of many has been greatly affected and in some even disconnection from school due to lengthy lockdowns.

“There have been mixed messages, varied access for different areas, ever changing school return dates and exam condition proposals as case numbers and health orders change regularly” Mrs Healy continued

“We call on the governments for states where lock down has dominated the lives of our year 12 students in 2021, to immediately make arrangements for these young people to be given appropriate alternative pathways for their futures and post-secondary options. This can be done. It is an imperative morally and ethically for these young people’s mental health and their future.”

“We know this will require creative and adaptive thinking by all institutions, but we are confident in their capacity to do so. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these measures to ensure the wellbeing and future of our children.

In what is normally an exciting and special year we should not be exacerbating their challenges but instead creatively recognising their achievements after 13years of formal school education

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