



Dear U3A member Presidents, Secretaries and Committee members,

“Can Network advise when we can reopen?”

As restrictions ease, in some instances several times a week. it is understandable that the above enquiry is front of mind for many.

The short answer to the above question is unfortunately **NO**. Network cannot provide U3A Committees with advice as conducting courses in these times of the current health restrictions.

Consistently we have advised that committee should follow the advice of the Australian Government and the Chief Medical Officer and the NSW Public Health. Or if appropriate other State or Territory Governments.

On 28 April Network issued an advice drawing U3A committees' attention to the Liability Implications for Member U3A Committees in exercising a duty of care to their members safety. https://nsw.u3anet.org.au/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Memorandum.pdf

Previously reference was made to the easing of some restrictions. It may be of assistance to draw your attentions to a posting on the NSW Government site, I noted yesterday,

“Community centres

Open with restrictions

- Capacity must not exceed one person per 4 square metres including staff members.
- Classes or organised events must not have more than 20 participants (not including the persons conducting or assisting in the conduct of the class or event, or parents, guardians, and carers of participants).
- Premises must have a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#).”
- <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules#current-restrictions>

The above is provided to assist in the due diligence that committees should undertake in determining whether to recommence courses. If your committee determines the above option is available and wishes to act on it and even expand on the numbers, additional participants may conceivably be achieved by adding some other form of virtual platform e.g. Zoom/ Skype.

At the Network Management Committee Meeting 5 June, the Committee viewed with some concern that some U3As had closed due to the health regulations. The need to assist U3As with the means by which course content may still be able to be provided to members was discussed. Solutions are being actively pursued, with emphasis in the areas of coaching in technology and course delivery.

Kind regards

Geoffrey

Geoffrey James

Secretary/ Public Officer

U3A Network NSW Inc