

To Our 3d Arts Community

At the outset of this year we want to acknowledge the pain of the last two years as we have each waded through the pandemic. We're incredibly grateful for the encouragement you've given us and the faithfulness our students and team have shown as we've cancelled, postponed, rearranged and adapted classes and performances to meet the challenges of Covid. We've been astonished by our team and community's resilience.

We're really pleased that all students under 18 years of age can have full access to our classes without reference to vaccination status. 3d Arts strives to be a place that creates opportunities in the arts for all people while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our community.

However, we're intensely aware that the continuation of vaccination mandates creates immense complexity and even exclusion for some of our older students and our team members. We've spent the last few weeks thinking, praying and wrestling through our approach to this year, and how to best go about fostering a community that feels something like the family of God, regardless of peoples' views on vaccination or the Government's Covid response.

We're still wrestling, but as a leadership team at 3d Arts:

- We're deeply grieved by the immense loss and disruption that Covid has caused in the lives of our whole community over the past few years through loss of lives, community connection, and employment opportunities.
- We're committed to fostering a community which extends grace and compassion to each other, regardless of individual positions on the politics of the pandemic.
- We'll strive to be creative in how we care for our community and do all we can to provide inclusive spaces for all members of our community to participate and experience authentic relationships.
- We'll continue to act with integrity towards the operators of our venues by always acting inline with the Covid regulations they are required to implement.
- We encourage everyone to chat to their GP if they have any questions about vaccination.

With that said:

- We're deeply uneasy about the continuation of vaccine mandates as a *legal* requirement for participation in many areas of community life, and particularly the requirement that organisations like 3d Arts must actively monitor our community's medical decisions.
- We're deeply frustrated by the inconsistencies in current regulations which:
 - Bars staff and volunteers under 18 years from *working* in creative arts classes without proof of vaccination, even though they are welcome to *participate* in those same classes.
 - Requires participants over 18 years and all staff of dance classes to prove vaccination, while disregarding this for community sport.

Covid continues to present significant risks to our community and we affirm that we each have a responsibility to do what we can to look after the most vulnerable among us. But

we're not satisfied that current regulations regarding vaccination mandates strike a proportionate balance between positive health outcomes and detrimental social costs.

As a leadership team, we've been writing to our local MPs to urge change and we'll be advocating through AusDance Victoria and other peak Arts bodies to petition for dance activities to be governed on the same lines as community sport. We know these are small beginning steps, but we'll continue to explore the most effective ways to create change as leaders in the arts community.

As we continue to confront the challenges of this year, know that we love you and want to do our best to serve you. Please join us in praying that 2022 will be a year of hope and restoration for our community.

Love,
Ben, Col and Cale
3d Arts Company Directors