



12 August 2020

Dear Fairholme Families

You would be aware of the border closure between Queensland and NSW and thus the impact upon our boarding families from NSW. What can we do as a Fairholme community to support our families at this time? Importantly, we can apply pressure upon decision-makers where possible for common-sense around exemptions for travel. We can also reach out to these families and 'adopt' their daughters in the interim – take them out on leave, offer assistance if they are in need, touch base with their parents, and generally watch out for them.

These families fundamentally live in self or semi-isolation, or in country towns untouched in any direct sense by COVID-19. Yet, at this time, they cannot commute to Toowoomba to see their daughter/s. Whilst some may not have even contemplated travel to Toowoomba in the next few weeks, it is the psychological burden of knowing they cannot that is weighty. Further, in the regular situations where they would hop in their car and travel the distance to see their daughter for a thousand important reasons, they simply can't.

We are hopeful that there will be new directions in place around travel exemptions by the end of this month. Thus, in the meantime, wherever you can be active in supporting reasonableness from decision-makers in relation to border crossings – do, and, most importantly, reach out to our NSW families – however you can.

As we look ahead to the student free day on Friday, 4 September and hence a long weekend, we are hopeful that relaxations in border crossing will have occurred. If not, this is a time to include our 31 NSW boarders in your plans and thus do what we can, where we can, to offer support.

Thank you for keeping our NSW families supported and their situation in clear view.

Kind regards

*Linda Evans*

Dr Linda Evans | Principal