

SOUTH-EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

SEVMail

MEMO SEV: 2014-027

TO: All Principals, Morwell Schools

FROM: John Allman, Regional Director

DATE: 11 March 2014

SUBJECT: Hazelwood Mine Fire

I wish to update you following the announcement by the Fire Services Commissioner that the Hazelwood Mine Fire is under control.

The Chief Health Officer is still recommending that families with young children or those with pre-existing heart or lung conditions living in the south of Morwell should consider relocating away from the area. This is because there are still periods of high levels of smoke.

This means that there is no change to how schools are currently operating:

- Commercial Road Primary School and Sacred Heart Primary School remain closed and students and staff continue to be relocated to schools in Moe or Newborough
- All other Morwell schools remain open and continue to seek opportunities to rotate students to other locations outside of Morwell for temporary relief
- Families who have moved out of Morwell can either enrol their child at another government school closer to where they are temporarily living or work with you to continue their studies at home.

You should continue with extra cleaning and the Department will leave in place the air quality monitoring units as intermittent smoke is still anticipated. You should continue to use the air quality data to assist in determining when it is best for children to play outdoors.

Most early childhood services are already offering their programs from locations outside of Morwell. Families should continue to send their children to these locations. Each service will provide information directly to families about when the service will return to operating from Morwell. The Department will support services to ensure facilities are clean before children return to them.

Parents should continue to manage their child's health especially if they are an asthmatic or have a pre-existing health problem. This includes ensuring that your school has the child's current treatment plan for existing health conditions.

When conditions improve we will work with you to support the return to normal operations.

JOHN ALLMAN
Regional Director
South Eastern Victoria Region