

**STOP THE SPREAD.**

**TIP #23**

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 can get tested



# The Advertiser

We're for you

## The Defence Force has joined our frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19



NEW BATTLE: Our past and present defenders, Air Commodore Margot Forster; Dr Megan Brooks, medical lead for acute and urgent care; Ann Hall, a nurse who served in Vietnam 1969-70, and Major Tim Rowe at the RAH. Picture: MARK BRAKE

### 'Grubby' attack

MILES KEMP  
ELIZABETH HENSON

THE teachers' union has been accused of a "grubby" attack on chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier over her support for a return to school next week.

Both sides of politics condemned the Australian Education Union's sledge on Twitter last night, saying it had taken aim at "South Australia's champion".

The union's controversial tweet attacked Prof Spurrier's message to parents earlier yesterday that schools were safe to reopen on Monday.

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hibernation

**YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO ANZAC DAY AT HOME**

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# SPIRIT OF ANZAC

**SALUTE TO OUR HEROES**  
[ PAGES 14-18 ]

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**BRAD CROUCH  
PAUL ASHENDEN**

AUSTRALIAN Defence Force personnel have risen to the challenges of war, peacekeeping duties and supporting communities after this summer's devastating bushfires. Now, on the eve of Anzac Day,

they are on a new front line fighting the war against coronavirus, embedded in Adelaide's major hospitals and the statewide COVID-19 Command Centre.

The military teams stand ready to help SA Health managers with complex logistics as part of the wider strategic plan to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, should it swiftly worsen here despite encouraging signs the state is reducing the threat.

Teams are working with the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre, Lyell McEwin Hospital and at the state Command Centre to make sure the health system is battle-ready.

The ADF Joint Task Group has already been involved in planning for a COVID-19 outbreak in remote communities and in co-ordinating patient flows in Adelaide hospitals.

Defence planner Major Tim Rowe said military personnel had the skills to support health workers.

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### Push for virus app

MATT SMITH

SOUTH Australians are being urged to sign up to a tracking app for their mobile phones in a bid to have businesses open earlier and coronavirus restrictions relaxed quicker.

Premier Steven Marshall, the state's chief public health officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, and Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas have backed the app that could be launched as early as today after national Cabinet meets.

They say it will ensure much quicker response times. CONTINUED PAGE 6

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## Tracing app aims to quicken virus help

FROM PAGE 1

This is because it would create an encrypted digital footprint of where people who are infected have been – and with whom they may have come into contact. This will save time and give authorities confidence they can relax restrictions earlier, because any clusters will be quickly identified, they say.

It is expected to be the subject of fierce debate in national Cabinet today, with significant concerns raised about privacy issues.

Premier Steven Marshall stressed it was the right move.

"Our goal is for South Australia to have the highest uptake of this app in the country," Mr Marshall told *The Advertiser*. "High uptake will help kickstart the economy, there is no doubt of that. But it will also help workers on the front line because it is going to safeguard the community."

He said the data was fully encrypted and could only be accessed by the Communicable Disease Control Branch.

Professor Spurrier, pictured, said it would help all health authorities to "very quickly get hold of people if they've been in contact with a known case which protects the individual but it also has a wider community protection as well".

For the app to work properly, "a large number of us to have it", she said.

Mr Malinauskas said, despite an instinctive reluctance towards the state monitoring its people, he would be signing up.

"Because this isn't just about the health of individuals, it is also about doing everything we can to keep the economy open safely and is quickly as possible," he said.

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FROM PAGE 1

"It may look good on paper, but how long will it last when school's back? Keep them safe," read the union's tweet, which included Prof Spurrier's open letter emblazoned in red writing with the words "Seriously, Spurrier?".

Premier Steven Marshall quickly leapt to her defence, saying she had "helped keep South Australians safe and calm during a global pandemic". "This is a grubby attack on a South Australian champion which the AEU must immediately take down and apologise for," he said.

Opposition leader Peter Malinauskas also defended Prof Spurrier, saying she was a "hard-working public servant" who was "doing her best to serve our state at a critical and important time".

"The AEU has got this one wrong!" tweeted the Labor leader, who said unions were "entitled to advocate for their members' interests".

Shortly after Mr Malinauskas's post, the tweet appeared to have been deleted.

The online stoush came just hours after the union ramped up its pitched battle with the State Government over plans to reopen schools next week.

Earlier yesterday, the Government told parents it was safe to send their children back to school on Monday.

Governing councils yesterday supported the Government's stand, which will see schools return with online and face-to-face learnings.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said most children would be returning in term two.

"Parents believe the best place for their children to be educated is at school," he said.

"Medical experts confirm that it is safe, and most parents will be sending their children back to school." But AEU SA president Lara Golding said teachers would continue their campaign to have parents keep their children at home because



they could not ensure social distancing.

"We are still receiving numerous contacts from members who are highly concerned about the return to school from Monday," she said.

"They still have not received any guidance on how they can maintain social distancing of 1.5m between students when they have a classroom full of children."

But Education Department chief executive Rick Perse said only 10 children in SA had been infected with the virus; there had been only one teacher-to-student infection, none in which a student had infected another and no student to teacher transmission.

He said more than half of all students were expected to return to school for term two and that would increase if the COVID-19 infection rates continued to improve.

"We are very confident about term two starting," he said. "It has been proven out



GOOD TO GO: St Columba College principal Leanne Carr has been busy preparing the school for the challenges of term two. Picture: RUSSELL MILLARD/AAP

through the data and with SA Health that schools are safe."

South Australian Primary Principals' Association president Angela Falkenberg said school leaders were focused on how to make the return to school work properly. "Health professionals are saying it is OK to return to school and we are saying we will trust them as a profession, because we also like to be listened to as a profession," she said.

South Australian Secondary Principals' Association president Peter Mader said there were concerns in schools about quickly switching from

online to classroom learning, and how classrooms would cope with some students online and some in the classroom. "Commencing this full-scale return to schooling from the beginning of term two has put (principals) on the back foot," he said.

St Columba College principal Leanne Carr is one who has worked over the school holidays to prepare for the challenges of term two.

"Whether students stay home or come to school next week, St Columba College will be providing lessons in an on-line environment," she said.

PENBERTHY ON TEACHERS [P13]

HIBERNATION LIFTOUT [P23]

COLLEGE FOOTY RETURN SPORT

PLUS

Education chief Rick Perse answers your questions live from 10.30am

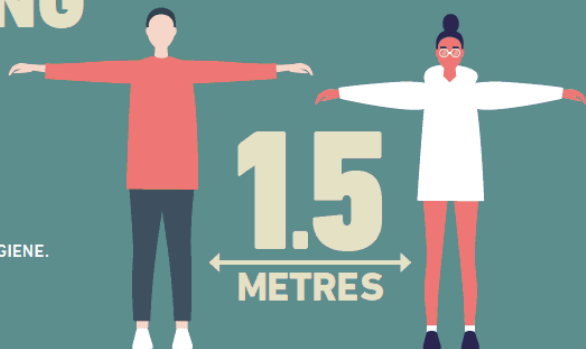
[bit.ly/rickpersechat](http://bit.ly/rickpersechat)

## SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS WE CAN DO TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS.

So let's all play our part by avoiding crowded places and keeping 1.5 metres apart whenever and wherever we can.

WHERE IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE, ALWAYS PRACTISE GOOD HYGIENE. FOR MORE SOCIAL DISTANCING TIPS, VISIT [STOPTHESPREAD.SA.GOV.AU](http://STOPTHESPREAD.SA.GOV.AU)

Government of South Australia  
SA Health





# 'grubby' slur on Spurrier



## WHERE THEY STAND

**Education Department chief executive Rick Perse**



“Schools are safe. Towards the end of term one, a lot of parents were keeping their children home and we respected that. But we are thinking there are going to be a lot of parents and a lot of kids who are going to be quite keen on getting out of the house and back to school.”

**Unlabeled SA Education Union SA President Lara Golding said teachers wanted parents to keep their children at home because they could not ensure social distancing**



“We are not convinced that the State Government has put proper supports for schools to ensure their safety.”

**South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey**



“Medical experts confirm that it is safe and most parents will be sending their children back to school.”

**South Australian Secondary Principals' Association president Peter Mader**



“The decision (to return to school) has been made during the school holidays and provides little opportunity for leaders to work with their staff, students and parents on how best to achieve an orderly return.”

**South Australian Primary Principals' Association president Angela Falkenberg**



“School leaders are fully focused on dealing with how things are changing and if they expected 30 per cent, or now 50 per cent, of students, (they know) how to deal with that, making sure the sites are organised and stocked with cleaning products and issues like that.”

**Association of Independent Schools of South Australia chief executive Carolyn Grantskalns**



“Schools have been in contact with parents so that they know what is planned for student learning for the beginning of the term.”

## Every part of your health and wellbeing matters at this time

### ADVICE

CATHERINE TURNBULL

OUR allied health professionals play a vital role in caring for the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.

Whether it's a regular physio appointment, counselling session or meeting with your child's speech therapist, many of us rely on these wide-ran-

ging health providers. The coronavirus outbreak has changed how we manage day-to-day lives but it shouldn't stop you keeping up with health plans or accessing the services you need.

SA Health is committed to helping you access your allied health care during the pandemic. If you are feeling well, you should continue to attend all essential appointments. There may, however, be some changes to how your sessions



are delivered. Telehealth consultations could be used, the lengths of visits might be shortened, or the time between

appointments longer. These adjustments will help us manage the spread of COVID-19 while allowing you to access health-care services you need.

Do not visit any allied health service if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, sore throat or cough, have recently travelled overseas or interstate, or been in contact with someone who is known to have COVID-19, call your GP or hospital to tell them you are unwell and follow any advice.

If you do have to stay at home, your health-care provider can help reschedule regular appointments. If you are self-isolating or in quarantine, they may be able to provide telehealth appointments.

We all need to take extra steps to care for our health right now but this especially applies to those already on health plans. If you receive regular treatment, your health-care provider can help you find the best way to man-

age your care. Make sure you keep up regular medication. Your doctor or pharmacist can support you to access medications, including helping you arrange prescriptions without a face-to-face appointment and home-delivery options for medicines. Caring for yourself has never been more important and essential allied health services remain open.

CATHERINE TURNBULL IS THE CHIEF ALLIED AND SCIENTIFIC HEALTH OFFICER AT SA HEALTH



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