



PRESS RELEASE:

Warning on the rise of charlatan tutors: Victoria focus

The Australian Tutoring Association has received a high number of complaints regarding informal tutors in Victoria.

A spike in market entrants

During the coronavirus pandemic there has been a large increase in the number of people entering the tutoring sector. Most of these people are sole traders. The ATA estimates the increase in sole trader tutors nationally to be in the order of 600-700. Most of these are people who may be seeking to supplement income, replace lost income or take advantage of a shift to online learning. However, only a small proportion of these tutors has become members of the ATA. This is of concern to us, especially as we have received a spike in complaint about this informal sector.

Dangerous practice

Many of these new market entrants represent the worst aspects of the industry because of the following:

- They may have no child safety (work with children) clearance
- They have no training in either tutoring or teaching
- They do not abide by the industry Code of Conduct
- They seek commercial returns even if it means placing families at risk
- They flaunt physical distancing and Covid Safety rules

Complaints we heard

The ATA is particularly concerned about non-ATA registered tutors openly flouting COVID safe rules. It has come to our attention that many Victorian-based tutors are offering to 'assist' families through doing in-home one-to-one tutoring.

- We DO NOT accept in-home tutoring in Victoria at present
- We DO NOT think it is safe for tutors to visit homes
- Tutoring is NOT an essential service and tutors should NOT prey on vulnerable families, including nurses and other health care workers

Be careful, keep safe and be patient

The ATA advises parents to be careful. Please check our list of registered members on our website: www.ata.edu.au

Tutors can ONLY engage in online tutoring at present in Victoria. Tutors should record all sessions, ensure parents are aware of the approach taken to child safety and provide full accountability for sessions done.

We always advocate a precautionary approach. This means that when there is uncertainty, tutors should make decisions that prioritise safety over anything else.

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