

Dear dancing friends.

With Covid-19 restrictions easing and news that some dance groups in Perth have recommenced, there have been inevitable questions asked about our situation.

The situation is quite complicated, and frankly, I believe that some dance groups are breaking the law by starting so soon, especially while physical distancing requirements remain in place. The 1.5m separation requirement makes “partner dancing” impossible, unless couple are living under the same roof. Newspaper headlines such as “dust off your dancing shoes” are misleading as they are referring more to nightclub situations where close physical contact is not needed and is indeed discouraged.

Many who come to our dance group come as singles, so it leaves us with no way to recommence, unless we had “couples only” dancing – and that would not be fair as it would exclude the significant number of “singles” who come dancing.

Our situation is made even more complicated by the fact that our current venue does not give us sufficient room to adhere to physical distancing requirement, either on the dancefloor, or seated around the room. We also have many of our group who are in the “highly vulnerable” category, either because of their age, or pre-existing health conditions. This would remain an issue, even if the WA government moves to phase 5 and drops the 1.5m requirement.

Consequently, and with a sense of regret, the Committee have recently “met” (via email) and passed the following two motions:

- That dancing will not recommence before September, at the earliest
- That we schedule a date for the AGM - perhaps Wednesday 16th September - with venue to be advised.

We hope to organize some sort of social gathering in the meantime, so will let you know more about that when we finalize the details.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay positive and I’m sure we will have a great celebration when we are able to resume dancing.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send your thoughts to [committee@yorkdancegroup.org.au](mailto:committee@yorkdancegroup.org.au)

Regards,

Les Holten  
President – on behalf of the Committee  
York Old Time Dance Group

28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020