



5th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your patience, understanding and ongoing support during such an unprecedented time. It is wonderful to see our church family willing to unite and stay connected in ways that would otherwise seem unconventional.

While our churches remain physically closed, our support, services and ministry **remain open** and are **fully operational**. Some of our churches have been reported on by local news media with stories of service and ministry to their local communities. This has been a real blessing to see and cause for rejoicing.

While it has been troubling times for the church to watch our physical doors close, this crisis has opened new opportunities for the church to reach out to the community in innovative ways. Results of this hard work and effort has encouraged us.

Currently we are waiting for Friday **8th May** cabinet meeting to see what our Federal Government will decide regarding national restrictions and bans.

ABC Bookstores

In light of the recent State Government's decision to permit shopping for non-essential items over the weekend, the Crisis Management Team have agreed, now would be a good time to **re-open our ABC book centers as of Wednesday 6th May**, under the conditions that all customers sanitise their hands prior to entering the stores and follow 1.5m social distancing rules with limited number of customers permitted in store, following guidelines of 4sqM per person.

Hours of Operation:

Adventist Book Centre (Watson Park Convention Centre, 337 Old Gympie Road, Dakabin, 4503)

- Wednesday – Thursday 8:45 am – 5:00 pm

Christian Life Resources (2422 Logan Road, Eight Mile Plains Q 4113)

- Monday – Wednesday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Thursday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

We will continue to offer resources if you are unable to visit either of our stores, BY POST, through the following options:

1. **Visit** <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au> website and place your order to be mailed.
2. **Email** orders to be mailed:
 - clr@adventist.org.au
 - abcsqc@adventist.org.au
 - gloriapaun@adventist.org.au
3. **Phone** Orders: (07) 3340 4700 or (07) 3886 1316 and leave a message for our return call to you.

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

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Seventh-day Adventist Church™ South Queensland

*“From Saturday, May 2, Queenslanders will have (slightly) more freedom than they have had for the past few weeks. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced that people would be able to go for a **drive within 50 kilometres of their home.**”*

“If you are over 65 or over 70 ... I would suggest going for a drive during the week, Monday to Friday, because on the weekends it's family time.”

“Some of the other changes include allowing families to go on picnics together if they are members of the same household.

Single people will be able to go with one other person.

Shopping for non-essential items like clothes and shoes will also be permitted.

Some national parks will also reopen, but the Government has not yet revealed which ones.”

*“The Premier stressed that **maintaining the existing social-distancing measures was essential**, and that **“if we do see mass gatherings, I will not hesitate to clamp back down”**.*

It's a small step but one Ms Palaszczuk said was “a positive move”. These measures will be reviewed after two weeks of closely watching the numbers of new infections.”

Resources:

[Coronavirus restrictions will soon be eased in Queensland and WA. What about other states?](#)

[Coronavirus restrictions to ease in Queensland, with outings allowed from next Saturday](#)

Churches and Convention Centers / Camp sites

Our churches, convention centers (Camp Somerset & Watson Park) and Lake Monduran will remain closed.

Coronavirus cases update

As of today, Queensland's total confirmed cases of Coronavirus is 1,043 with 5 new cases overnight. Queensland has 57 active cases, with 9 hospitalized, 4 in ICU and 6 deaths. The battle to get new cases down to zero (0) is real and therefore, the South Queensland Conference supports decisions made by both Federal and Local Governments to do whatever we can to be part of the solution and not the problem.

Resource: <https://www.covidlive.com.au/state/qld>

SQC encourages its church members and staff to follow the **General Precautionary Standards**, which include:

- washing your hands often and thoroughly with regular soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- using a tissue to cover your mouth or cough and sneeze into your elbow
- avoiding close contact with others, such as touching and shaking hands
- Discard used tissues in a bin or bag immediately and wash your hands immediately

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- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Frequently clean and disinfect regularly used surfaces and public areas, such as hand rails, door handles and benches
- Maintain social distance at all times with a distance of at least 1.5 meters between yourself and the next person (for public interactions)
- Stay home, self-quarantine and call your doctor if you feel unwell

The SQC continues to support churches with flexible tithe and offering support. Alternatives outlined are:

- **Access to Electronic Giving (e-giving) via the internet website**
- **Access to e-giving by the new APP that can be easily downloaded to your mobile phone and/or ipad**
- **Details on Manal Credit Card Sheet that can be completed and emailed to us to allow for giving via credit or debit cards**
- **Access to Phone Service, should you wish to phone your credit card details through for our staff to assist you in your tithes and offerings**
- **Details for Direct Bank Transfers to our Conference bank account, should you prefer to give in this way**
- **Details on a personal Deposit system, available here at our Administration and Resourcing Centre (Spring Hill)**
- **Details on Mail Delivery for giving donations**

Schools update

Yesterday, Annastacia Palaszczuk MP announces a 'back to school plan for Queensland students'. She said on her [Facebook page](#):

"Students in Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 will return to school on May 11, while students in Years 2 to 10 will continue remote learning at home.

We will review the situation on May 15, with the goal to return the remaining students on May 25 if low COVID-19 transmission rates continue.

Children of essential workers and vulnerable children are still able to attend school.

A sensible and gradual return is only possible because of Queensland's success in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Compare our efforts to what has happened in other parts of the world and Queenslanders should feel very proud.

Keep up the good work!"

Seventh-day Adventist Schools will release a statement to parents outlining what the return to school process will look like.

You can also access Queensland Government Department of Education Frequently

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asked questions for parents [here](#).

Aged Care update

Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village opened up last Friday (01/05/2020) to family/visitors on a booking basis and to those who could present with an up to date flu vaccination certificate.

Adventist Retirement Plus will look at opening the remainder three sites this week to visitors on a booking basis and for those who can present with an up to date flu vaccination certificate.

Church members may access regular updates and latest communication from Aged Care CEO, Eric Anderson via the following link: <https://www.arplus.org.au/news/>

Conclusion

We continue to pray for each other and the rest of the Nation as we move through this difficult time and play our parts in minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19. Here in South Queensland we remain committed in ensuring that our church members are cared for and spiritually supported. Our staff are working tirelessly at keeping us connected as a church family, ministering to all of our churches in regional areas as well as city, even if it does look different.

SQC remains proactive in these uncertain and difficult times. We appreciate that some of these measures will cause inconvenience and disappointment where expected programs are cancelled. We thank all in advance for your co-operation and understanding as we seek to deal as appropriately as possible with this constantly changing major and serious health threat.

With these comprehensive responses put in place, the SQC will continue to monitor, change and adapt as the virus changes and escalates. The SQC understands that the current situation is fluid and requires extensive monitoring and will update and inform both staff and members as additional information comes to hand and/or additional measures are required in our response.

Thank you for noting this update.

Yours sincerely
SQC Crisis Management Team

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