

Seventh-day Adventist Church[™] *South Queensland*



24 March 2020

Dear Church Family,

This is **issue #4 (four)** of regular Corporate communication. This communication supersedes previous issue #3 (three).

There is no doubt that global COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic is changing and will change the world permanently. Undoubtedly, the immediate change we are seeing and experiencing is in the way we are interacting with one another and running our daily business and ministries.

An important note we would like to highlight is that in terms of ongoing support, services and ministry, our church is **not** closed. The organization continues to function and run as usual, albeit in a very different way to which we are all used to. Please be encouraged that we will still remain connected as a church family.

However, in light of Prime Minister, Scott Morrison's address Sunday night, the physical locations of our churches are closed. Please see screenshot from [Australian Government Department of Health](#) website below.

AHPPC supports national discontinuation of all non-essential gatherings

AHPPC recognises the importance of a nationally consistent approach to measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This would entail the temporary closure of registered and licensed clubs (excluding bottleshops attached to these venues), pubs, hotels (excluding accommodation), gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, casinos, entertainment venues, restaurants and cafes (which will be restricted to take away and/or home delivery), places of worship, weddings, funerals (other than very small groups with the 4sqM per person rule to apply).

All of these restrictions apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.

How does this affect our churches?

1. Sabbath church services will be accessible online only. Please visit your local church website for details
2. As heartbreaking as this situation is, as per Government Health guidelines, churches are not able to be used for conducting funeral and wedding services
 - a. Funerals therefore need to be conducted at Funeral home chapels or at the grave site, following Government guidelines of 4sqM per person. Livestreaming may be set up by the pastor conducting the service
 - b. Weddings are also to be held at external venues following Government guidelines of 4sqM per person, and gatherings less than 100
3. As per the most recent state Government directives, no small private group gatherings should occur or private transport outside your own suburb. As a result,

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In preparation for possible closures, all schools have worked with staff to develop detailed Learning Continuity Plans. These plans are being trialed at each school during the remainder of Term 1. We encourage parents to keep their children home, where they are able, to participate remotely in this trial. In most schools, those on campus during this time will also participate in the remote learning trial with their teacher in the classroom. Parents and students are invited to give their school feedback which will assist us in being able to strengthen this provision for when it is required.

Our schools and Early Learning Centres will remain open to serve our communities until the directive to close is given.

Aged Care update

Having already put in place a range of measures to significantly reduce the potential for COVID-19 to reach their sites, the Aged Care team continue to assess their response and consider alternatives to strengthen these protections. At present the focus is on ensuring residents, their families and friends are able to maintain meaningful contact using video conferencing technologies.

Updates from Eric Anderson, the CEO, continue to be posted on the Adventist Retirement Plus website <https://www.arplus.org.au/news/>.

Conclusion

SQC has been 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.

May we continue to pray together for God's continuing guidance and protection for our church and our community through these challenging times.

Thank you for noting this important notice and following the directions as set by the Crisis Management Team in supporting the recommendations of the AUC.

Yours sincerely
SQC Crisis Management Team

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