



28 April 2020

Dear Church Family,

Firstly, we wish to thank our church members for their patience, understanding and ongoing support during such an unprecedented time. It has been wonderful to see our church family willing to unite and stay connected in ways that would otherwise seem unconventional.

As we have said before, 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. The results of his hard work and effort has encouraged us.

In our earlier notices we mentioned that we would review our decisions by 30th April. While there are rumors of restrictions being lifted soon, the Federal Government has not yet issued any formal statement on how, when and what the lifting of restrictions may look like.

As such, our **churches, convention centers (Camp Somerset & Watson Park), Lake Monduran and ABC book centers** will remain closed.

[ABC News](#) reports that “*Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said **no national restrictions would be lifted until at least May 11**, which would be the end of a four-week period during which a number of key statistical metrics would be measured.*” The Crisis Management Team has decided to wait for a formal media statement to be released by the Prime Minister on **May 11**, before reviewing and deciding on any restriction changes.

The Prime Minister has granted state and territory governments freedom to make their own calls on certain matters:

*“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.

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

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Seventh-day Adventist Church™ South Queensland

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](#)

As of today, Queensland's total confirmed cases of Coronavirus is 1030 with only 3 new cases across national Australia overnight.

The South Queensland Conference supports decisions made by both Federal and Local Governments. Our intent is to be part of the solution and not the problem.

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
- 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**

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- **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

The Queensland Government has announced that from 20 April 2020, Queensland students will be moving to a learning at home model for the first five weeks of Term 2. During this period all students who are able to learn from home should do so. From the start of Term 2 until 22 May 2020 inclusive, all students will be learning from home, except students in the following categories:

- Children of essential workers on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Essential worker means any working who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time.
- Vulnerable children include children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order, children who are subject to a youth justice order and children in designated Indigenous communities.
- Children in designated Indigenous communities.

On-site supervision, with access to the school's home-based learning materials, will be available at all schools for students in the categories listed above.

Our school leaders and their staff have worked diligently over the last month and are well prepared to action this transition. Advice regarding the model of learning for the remainder of Term 2, 2020 will be provided by the Government by 22 May 2020.

Our schools continue to work to ensure the safety of staff considered 'at risk' and to implement workplace practices on site that promote hygiene and social distancing.

Aged Care update

The Aged care team continue to work at putting into place comprehensive measures designed to protect the residents and staff and assess their response and consider alternatives to strengthen protections. At present there have not been any confirmed cases of COVID-19 at our sites.

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/>

An update on the Prime Minister's Press Conference 21st April with respect to Aged care can also be found on the Adventist Retirement Plus Website <https://www.arplus.org.au/adventist-retirement-plus-covid-19-update-regards-prime-ministers-press-conference-april-21st-with-respect-to-aged-care/>

Conclusion

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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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