



CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Communique #5

30 March 2020

Update from National Cabinet – FURTHER RESTRICTIONS

The Premier of Western Australia has confirmed this afternoon that we have now moved to Stage 3 restrictions. The Prime Minister announced last night (29/03/2020), echoed by the Premier of Western Australia this afternoon, new restrictions to public gatherings.

National Cabinet agreed to limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings to two persons only.

Exceptions to this limit include:

- *People of the same household going out together;*
- *Funerals - a maximum of 10 people;*
- *Wedding - a maximum of 5 people;*
- *Family units.*

You can view the Statement here:

[The PM statement from 29th March](#)

These measures will commence on Tuesday 31 March at 11.59pm be enforced by regulations as per the WA State of Emergency powers.

This may have implications for our online church services. We are currently reviewing our advice and working on recommendations as to how churches can produce church services and live streaming within these restrictions. We will provide these through to Churches as soon as possible.

Travel Restrictions in WA

For our regional Churches, the WA Government will introduce further restrictions on travel within WA from Tuesday night 31 March 2020 (12.00am AWST Wednesday morning 1 April

2020), to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. WA intrastate travel is defined as movement through the boundaries of the regions of Western Australia. These regions are:

- Perth and Peel (due to their close proximity, the Perth and Peel regions will combine into one region)
- South West
- Great Southern
- Goldfields-Esperance
- Mid-West
- Wheatbelt
- Gascoyne
- Pilbara
- Kimberley

Western Australians will not be permitted to leave their regional boundary. Police have the power to enforce these restrictions and fines of up to \$50,000 can be issued.

Exemptions will apply for:

- employment purposes
- medical reasons
- health and emergency services
- people living in 'border communities', who may not have access to groceries or supplies within their region
- freight
- compassionate grounds.

Access to designated regions including the Kimberley (including the entire Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, parts of the Shire of East Pilbara that encompass the communities of Jigalong, Martu homeland communities and Kiwirrkurra) have [additional stronger restrictions in place](#). This is to help curb the spread of COVID-19 into our very vulnerable communities, which could have catastrophic consequences.

COMMON Q&A:

Q: Can our staff still operate from the church office?

A: Yes, but it is time to transition staff to work from home. Workers attending the office must adhere to the 4 square metre rule, and social distancing must be observed. The church is not “open” to the public so to speak, but Ministers and staff can still go to work.

Q: Can we still meet to pray or do bible study in small groups if we adhere to the 4m/1.5m rules?

A: No. People should stay at home, unless shopping for essentials, travelling to and from work (if you cannot work from home), going to school and exercising. Keep visitors to your home at a minimum. Do not congregate in groups in indoor and outdoor spaces.

Q: Will our Church be eligible for any of the Government support funding?

A: COCWA is currently reviewing all the Commonwealth and State Government announcements to determine what potential funding sources may be available to not for profits and Church organisations. Further advice will be distributed to all Churches when these have been determined.

Further Resources:

COCWA recommends that you follow and keep up to date with the Government issued information and resources.

- Department of Health (Commonwealth) - <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
- WA Health, Government of Western Australia - <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/>
- Office of the Prime Minister - <https://www.pm.gov.au/>

If you have any queries or require further advice, please contact COCWA at

admin@cocwa.com.au

COCWA’s COVID-19 updates and additional resources are available at www.cocwa.com.au.

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Churches of Christ in Western Australia