

Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 6 April 2020

Prime Minister's Announcement - Religious Services

In the past few weeks across our country, we have seen an extraordinary amount of change. Legislative instruments have come into effect that have impacted many of our social freedoms. These have required our movement to make significant adjustments, and we have needed to redefine how we do church and how we deliver our various ministries.

Of particular impact were the restrictions of last week that severely limited options around live streaming and recording of worship services. The QB Movement believed that these represented an unreasonable imposition to our ministry functions. With much prayer and petition, we sought out mechanisms to have these restrictions reconsidered. I am so thankful to God for the opportunity to collaborate with a fellow State Leader to have representations made to National Cabinet which resulted in the relaxation of the rules around places of worship as announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison last Friday 3 April (see media release extract below).

In this announcement, it was declared that Churches and other places of worship will be considered places of work. This will mean that worship services can now be recorded or live streamed from our church properties. It will also ensure that services, including Easter services, remain accessible to congregations and the wider community using technology. Of huge significance was that the National Cabinet agreed that providing access to services is important for a sense of continuity and social connection. Praise God!

While services may now be conducted on church properties and live streamed, it is provided that only essential staff are present, the venue/facility remains closed to the public, and social distancing principles are adhered to.

Any church wishing to conduct services, including Easter services, must use the minimum number of participants required to deliver and live stream the service. The number of people involved must be kept to a minimum. These may include a minister, attendants, organist/musician, videographer and sound recordist. We are recommending to our churches that no more than 5 people be involved as per the rules around the number of people permitted to attend weddings.

We continue to give God glory for this progress and are reminded of His sovereignty in Job 42:2 *"I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted."*

Stewart Pieper (Director of QB Services)

[Religious Services](#)

Churches and other places of worship, will be considered places of work so that services can be live streamed to the community. This will ensure that religious services, including Easter services, remain accessible to congregations. National Cabinet agreed that providing access to services is important for a sense of continuity and social connection.

Services may be conducted and live streamed providing only essential staff are present, the venue/facility remains closed to the public, and social distancing principles are adhered to.

Any church wishing to conduct religious services, including Easter services, must use the minimum number of participants required to deliver and live stream the service, which may include a priest, attendants, organist, videographer and sound recordist.