

## Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 13 May 2020

In recent months across our country and globally, we have seen an extraordinary amount of change that has impacted many long-standing social freedoms. These have required our movement to make significant adjustments, and we have needed to redefine how we do church and deliver our various ministries, and we give honour and glory to God for His leading through this time.

Last Friday, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk released [Queensland's Roadmap to Easing COVID-19 Restrictions](#). The roadmap outlines a staged approach to giving Queensland more freedom to travel, participate in more activities and hold more gatherings. The “step down” approach to COVID -19 has target time frames for each stage with a gradual lifting of restrictions, that will have a direct impact on our churches and ministry activities.

While the below summarises restrictions across the various stages as they impact church life, it should be noted that there are continuing conditions that remain in place across each stage. These include social distancing (1.5m and 4m square per person when indoors), hygiene rules and staying home if unwell.

### STAGE 1: 15 MAY 2020 (4 weeks)

- Gatherings in homes (max 5 visitors, allowed from separate households)
- Gatherings of up to 10 people:
  - weddings
  - places of worship and religious ceremonies
  - Funerals (max 20 indoors or 30 outdoors)

### STAGE 2: 12 JUNE 2020 (4 weeks)

- Gatherings of up to 20 people:
  - homes
  - weddings
  - places of worship and religious ceremonies
  - Funerals (max 50)

### STAGE 3: 10 JULY 2020

- Subject to further planning and review, interstate and further intrastate travel will be permitted, and a maximum of 100 people will be permitted for:
  - gatherings in public spaces and homes
  - places of worship and religious ceremonies
  - weddings
  - funerals

In the same way that we navigated the increasing restrictions, we now need to traverse the gradual lifting of them. We are mindful that uncertainty and ambiguity may well arise during the stages of the step down, and so we pray for wisdom and discernment as decisions are made in churches across our movement. We encourage churches to be thinking about the lifting of restrictions simply in the light of their intentions, and to avoid identifying “work arounds”. Collaboration will serve us well as these stages unfold, and we will provide further resourcing in terms of a church health management plan template.

*Philippians 1:9* And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

Blessings  
Stewart