



## Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 14 April 2020

### Prime Minister's Announcement re Religious Services 3 April

In the latest QB COVID – 19 Update on 6 April, we addressed Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement regarding religious services. As you would be aware, this announcement declared that Churches and other places of worship would be considered places of work. The impact of this meant that worship services can now be recorded or live streamed from our church properties. It also ensured that services, including our recent Easter services, remain accessible to congregations and the wider community using technology.

In the update we recommended 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 now confirm that on late Thursday evening of 9 April, the Chief Health Officer for QLD Health issued an update to [Non Essential Business Closure Direction \(No.5\)](#). This update captured the following for places of worship:

*Weddings with a maximum attendance of 5 people being the celebrant, couple and two witnesses with no more than one person per 4 square metres.*

*Funerals attended by a maximum of 10 people with no more than one person per 4 square metres, except if an exemption is granted on compassionate grounds by the Chief Health Officer. **The person conducting the funeral service is in addition to the 10 attendees.***

*Live streaming of a wedding or funeral may be conducted with the maximum number of people outlined above.*

*Any other service at a place of worship may be live streamed if the service is conducted by no more than 5 people including the camera operator, with social distancing observed.*

NB: for ease of referencing, changes since No.4 of this Direction are in red font.

To date, there has been no updates to the Direction that address immersion baptism. We have lodged a formal request with QLD Health in relation to this and will share the information as it comes to hand.

We will continue to seek God's leading and provision in this time and will provide further recommendations as updates continue to be issued.

*"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." Psalm 37:23*

Blessings,

Stewart Pieper  
**Director of Services**