



AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION SERVICES CONTINUING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES; SEEK 'ESSENTIAL SERVICE' STATUS

- **All funeral services are going ahead as scheduled, however number of attendees further restricted**
- **Many Funeral Directors have digital capabilities to live stream, webcast and record funerals**
- **Advocating for the Federal Government to provide the funeral sector with "essential services" status**

The Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) today assured Australians that funeral services are going ahead as scheduled, and are complying with the Federal Government's social distancing guidelines relating to public events.

AFDA President, Andrew Pinder, said all of its members will comply with the updated guidelines which limit attendees of funeral services to 10 people.

"Our members are absolutely committed to providing a respectful and inclusive farewell despite the strict limitations on physical attendance. Across Australia our members are doing their best to ensure each service and facility has digital capabilities to live stream, webcast and record every AFDA funeral service to allow all members of a family or community to feel part of the farewell," Mr Pinder said.

"In these extremely difficult times, numbers have to be minimised at all services, however we are still able to provide suitable arrangements for clients across the country and we are working with families to arrange respectful services that allow immediate family to gather. We are ensuring the families visiting our locations are taking the necessary precautions to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and stay healthy."

Australian families who are seeking funeral services should feel confident that their loved ones will be farewelled safely and respectfully.

Mr Pinder said that the AFDA is engaging with all levels of government to ensure that its members are able to continue to provide this essential service across all States and Territories.

"The AFDA has communicated with the Government the funeral industry's urgent request for its members to be classified as essential businesses. This classification will ensure ongoing confidence the AFDA members can continue to care for the deceased and their families through this difficult period and will be able to assist with each and every request, including the continuation of live streamed services should further restrictions come into place."

All members of the ADFA are also committed to the health and safety of their teams. This includes maintaining the highest levels of personal hygiene, practicing the highest levels of cleaning and disinfecting at all locations and best practice social distancing practices to minimise the contact with others.

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