

UPDATE RE CHURCH & LIVE-STREAM BROADCASTING RECOMMENDATIONS**April 3rd, 2020**

Dear Greater Sydney Conference Members,

As you prepare for the Sabbath and its marvelous joyful worship and rest from work, remember to “fear God and give Him the glory because the hour of His judgement has come and worship Him who made the heaven and earth, the sea and the spring of water.” (Revelation 14:7)

Many of you have been asking about whether or not we can Live-streaming or broadcast from our facilities. This is the advice we are getting from the department of Multicultural affairs and the NSW Health department & government (visit sydney.adventist.org.au/news-archive/coronavirus for the COVID19 legislation press release).

The NSW health department have informed the several denominations in Sydney, that church buildings are deemed workplaces for the purpose of live-streaming church services. Therefore, more than two (2) people, but less than five (5; the size of a wedding) can gather to record or stream services. Social distancing must be modeled on-screen and the church building must be clearly seen as closed for worship services to the public. Advertise this on your doors and billboards and your live streaming.

This is an email from the NSW Multicultural department community officer, Thida Yang.

Dear Religious Communities Forum members,

1. The Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 legislates the application of the two person public gathering rule in NSW, and that people must not leave their place of residence without reasonable excuse.
2. A person may leave their premises for the purpose of work where it isn't possible to work from home. This applies to work done as a volunteer or for a charitable organisation, and where a person is providing assistance to a vulnerable person or an emergency service.
3. Places of worship must not be open to members of the public, except for the purposes of conducting small weddings of up to 5 people and funerals of up to 10 people.
4. This does not prevent the streaming or broadcasting of religious services in places of worship, as long as these services are closed to the public.

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5. The number of people participating in the streaming or broadcasting of religious services should be kept to a minimum, as essential to the religious service.
6. The Order also does not prevent the use of premises to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, such as a food bank.
7. The occupier or operator of the premises must ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person on the premises and social distancing should be practiced.
8. For more information about the order, go here: <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/public-health-orders>.

I trust that this will be useful to you. Be mindful that this advice is changing all the time. I'll inform you as soon as I know of any changes.

Please be aware of the public's perceptions and keep your church building usage low key so as to not attract unnecessary negative attention.

A few items and resources for your perusal:

- This is the link for Sabbath April 11th offering video to include in your broadcasts. <https://vimeo.com/402023428>
- World Budget Offering April 11, 2020
April 11th is a very special Sabbath for Hope Channel as a portion of the World Budget Offering collected on that Sabbath, and throughout the year, will go to the ministry of Hope Channel.

Hope Channel is the global television ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It has 58 channels across the globe in over 70 languages that bring messages of hope and assurance to millions of fearful people confined in their homes under the current coronavirus pandemic. The ministry of Hope Channel has never been more urgent, and giving to Hope Channel has never been more compelling at this momentous time in earth's history.

Please spread the news about the forthcoming Hope Channel's promotion for world offering on April 11 using the resources included in the package on this link: www.hopetv.org/offering. Please continue promote support and faithful giving online.

ADRA situation report is attached for you to share.

- Mt Druitt Food pantry needs Toilet Paper and volunteers under the age of 60. Contact Pr Matthew Pearce if you can help or support. matthewpearce@adventist.org.au
- Redfern Centre of influence needs the following:
Takeaway cups and lids for decaf coffee for our homeless in the area
Contact Bernard Deojee via bernarddeojee@adventist.org.au

Domestic strife and abuse can increase when families are cooped up in a small space. Here are resource links to help you help them:

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- ➔ <https://www.insightexchange.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/IE-Covid-19-Guide-Faith-Community-Responses-to-DFV-1.pdf>
- ➔ <https://www.insightexchange.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/IE-Covid-19-Guide-Family-and-Friends-Responses-to-DFV.pdf>

- Both the Epping and Wahroonga ABC's will be closed from Friday noon, April 3rd until further notice. The online store is still open and your orders will continue to be filled.
- Crosslands Centre is closed until further notice
- GSC is working on being prepared strategically for the long haul of this crisis. We ask that you continue to pray for our churches, members and employees and support as we share the special message of Hope and the 2nd coming of Jesus in the context of Revelation 14 & 18.

Thank you for all that you're doing for one another and your extended communities. We are lifting you in prayer daily. To God be the glory.

In Christ,
Warm Regards,

Terry Johnson
President, Greater Sydney Conference

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