

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) Liaison Officers and Regional Office staff are here to support and provide advice to families to help manage the COVID-19 restrictions. This includes support for sorry business and funerals, as well as travel restrictions in place in Queensland.

Restrictions are in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus, and to maintain the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. **Restrictions regarding funeral attendance have been eased over three stages.**

FUNERAL RESTRICTIONS	NUMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	CONDITIONS
<b>Stage 1</b> 15 May 2020 – 1 June 2020	Funerals with a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>20 people</b> indoors</li> <li>• <b>30 people</b> outdoors</li> </ul> A maximum of three (3) people can conduct the funeral service in addition to the attendees.	Maintain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing</li> <li>• Four square metres per person when indoors</li> <li>• Regular hand washing</li> <li>• Respiratory hygiene</li> <li>• Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection</li> <li>• Next of kin will be required to record the details of all people attending. Details must be kept for at least 8 weeks</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 2</b> 1 June 2020 – 3 July 2020	Funerals can have up to <b>100 people</b>	
<b>Stage 3</b> From 3 July 2020		

*Note: Restrictions may be changed at any time or extended if it is considered necessary.*

## Attending funerals

At every funeral, regardless of [exemption](#) or eased restriction, all health protocols such as social distancing, access to hand sanitisers or soap and water, and other coronavirus prevention measures must be followed.

- No-one who is unwell should attend.
- No-one who has been in contact in the last 14 days with a known case of COVID-19 should attend.
- People 65 years of age and over (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and over) with one or more chronic diseases, and those 70 years and over — or people severely immunocompromised — are strongly advised not to attend for their safety.
- Anyone who arrives from overseas must have undertaken the required 14-day period of quarantine before attending the funeral.

## Exemptions

The Chief Health Officer can grant an exemption if a larger number of people need to attend a funeral. To receive an exemption there are certain conditions that must be met to keep people safe. These include handwashing, venue capacity and social distancing protocols, as well as any other conditions the Chief Health Officer considers appropriate in the circumstances.

DATSIP Liaison Officers can support families to find a balance between meeting your needs and maintaining COVID-19 safety measures which includes exploring options and ways to provide technical support for funerals.

Contact your local council or DATSIP regional office for further information at [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact)

## Exemption conditions

The person submitting the exemption request will be responsible for compliance, and should consider whether the following conditions can be met before making a submission.

- The venue must be of sufficient size and layout to allow for social distancing, so there is 1.5 metres between people (or four square metres per person).
- A register must be kept detailing people who attended the funeral and their current contact details. This is to assist Queensland Health with contact tracing if required.
- Provision of soap and water or sanitizer for handwashing on entry and exit.
- Support to ensure social distancing is followed by all attendees.
- People attending the funeral must be advised and acknowledge the risk involved in attending the gathering.
- People attending the funeral must contact 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or their doctor if they are unwell in the 14 days after the funeral.

## How to apply for an exemption

Visit Queensland Health to request an exemption or to find out more about the direction <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/contact>

Exemptions are not allowed in areas where there is community transmission of COVID-19, and requests will require the following information:

- Your contact details including telephone number and email address
- Details of the deceased
- Place of the funeral
- Date of the funeral
- Requested exemption (the number of people you would like to attend the funeral)
- Reason for requesting the exemption
- Information about steps you will take to:
  - Limit risk of exposure travelling to the funeral, at the funeral, and returning home
  - Maintain social distancing
  - Support good hygiene.

## More information

**Contact** your local council or DATSIP regional office at [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/contact)