

Minister for Health  
Minister for Strategic Growth  
Minister for Women  
Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events

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Our Ref: WITS 120584/MIN21/5509

18 MAR 2021

Dale Gilson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Funeral Directors Association Limited  
[ceo@afda.org.au](mailto:ceo@afda.org.au)

Dear Mr Pinder and Mr Gilson

Thank you for contacting me requesting the inclusion of Funeral Directors as priority personnel in the COVID-19 vaccination program.

As we begin the roll-out here in Australia, we have initially had very limited doses available so have needed to prioritise those personnel who are most likely to be exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

This includes frontline healthcare workers, and quarantine and border staff.

I note you refer to differing priorities in the United Kingdom. The number of deaths and infections in the UK is significantly higher than here in Australia, so the circumstances here dictate different priorities.

However, we anticipate being able to vaccinate all our population over the coming months. This will be done based on the vulnerability and level of risk for particular cohorts. I refer you to the Australian Government eligibility checker (<https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>) which will help your members determine when it will be their turn to receive their vaccination.

Thank you again for taking the time to raise this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Courtney".

Hon Sarah Courtney MP  
Minister for Health