



# AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

22 July 2021

The Hon Stephen Wade,  
SA Minister for Health  
ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

## **SA COVID – 19 Level 5 lockdown - reinstatement of funerals in South Australia**

The Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) is the national peak industry body with members in every State and Territory representing approximately 65% of all deaths in Australia.

In April 2020, AFDA wrote to you requesting that SA join other States in limiting the number of people permitted to gather at a funeral to 10 excluding those necessary to carry out the funeral service. This provided clear guidance to families that the limit is 10 immediate family members plus funeral staff.

Rather than funerals not being permitted altogether during periods of lockdown, the purpose of writing then, as is the case now, is to maintain funerals during periods of lockdown so families can continue to say good-bye and mourn the loss of a loved one.

With SA now in Level 5 lockdown, **AFDA is again writing to you to request that funerals are reinstated as soon as the 1-week Level 5 lockdown is complete so families can grieve the loss of their loved ones.**

Should the lockdown be extended, AFDA requests that funerals be permitted to recommence at a minimum of 10 attendees plus those required to conduct the funeral in line with other States during periods of lockdown. Failure to reinstate funerals will also see a storage capacity issue the longer restrictions continue and families delay the funeral of their loved one.

The Funeral Industry has proven over the past 16 months to be incredibly vigilant in not allowing a spreading event to occur at any of the funerals or ceremonies conducted by AFDA members.

In the interests of the families of those who have lost a loved one during this very difficult time, **we request urgent consideration be given to allow a minimum of 10 attendees at a funeral excluding those required to conduct the funeral service to recommence as soon as possible.**

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Barrett  
National President

Dale Gilson  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc  
The Hon. Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia.

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funeral standards*

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