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AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND FUNERAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES TO BE VACCINATED AS A PRIORITY GROUP

The Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) is calling on the State and Territories Governments to include Funeral Directors and funeral industry employees as a priority group in the current phase of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

The groups currently eligible for the Pfizer vaccine are classified as priority based upon criteria including potential exposure to COVID-19 cases and regular contact with vulnerable people.

The President of the AFDA, Adrian Barrett, said that Funeral Directors and funeral industry workers continue to be essential workers throughout the State lockdown periods.

“Funeral directors across Australia are doing an excellent job at managing the risk of COVID considering that they conduct over 160 000 funerals a year, but we are concerned that they are not adequately protected against the virus.”

“Funeral directors and those employed by the industry are at a greater risk of exposure to COVID-19 than most, as they come into contact with deceased who have died from the virus and often interact with elderly people during funeral services.”

“Given the situation in NSW at the moment, where several COVID-related deaths have unfortunately occurred, funeral directors and funeral industry workers should receive priority vaccinations to prevent the spread of the virus in the community.”

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.

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