



AUSTRALIAN
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

Australian Funeral Directors
Association Limited
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The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
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29th September 2021

Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of the Members of the Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) NSW / ACT Division to seek urgent clarification on the recent Roadmap to Recovery.

We were recently advised that under the Reopening NSW roadmap at 70 per cent double vaccination, up to 50 guests can attend funerals, with eating and drinking while seated.

Under the Reopening NSW roadmap at 80 per cent double vaccination the following freedoms will apply only to fully vaccinated adults (16+) and those with medical exemptions (staff and patrons);

- Weddings, funerals and places of worship one person per 4sqm (uncapped) for weddings with dancing permitted and eating and drinking allowed while standing
- Those who are not fully vaccinated may only attend weddings with a maximum of 5 guests (no receptions)
- One person per 4 sqm (uncapped) for funerals
- Those who are not fully vaccinated may only attend funerals with a maximum of 10 people.

Our Industry wishes to seek clarification and direction as to a suitable monitoring method for double vaccination and does this apply to both the 70 per cent and 80 per cent double vaccination roadmap timelines.

The industry also needs to understand and receive clarification as to how do they enforce the new regulations. The checking of the vaccination status puts funeral staff in a very difficult and perhaps dangerous situation when non vaccinated mourners attempt to attend a funeral.

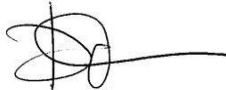
What are funeral directors staff expected to do if a mourner refuses to produce satisfactory evidence that they have been double vaccinated? In the case of a mourner having been granted an exemption to a vaccination or may have only received one vaccination – what is the government policy on permitting them to attend the funeral? This could involve a spouse, child, sibling or other family member.

In the case of staff of funeral directors that have either not been vaccinated or have only received one vaccination – does this mean they cannot be involved in working on the funeral?

Finally, we would appreciate if the answers to our questions are produced in such a way as we can hand to a family when funeral arrangements are being made – that way there is no confusion on anyone's part. We are already receiving enquiries asking about this and taking booking of funerals for these dates so we need to have clarification as to how to proceed as soon as possible.

We appreciate your time once again to provide the funeral industry with the clarity and direction that we require to operate efficiently during these very difficult times for our members, and families who have lost a loved one.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dale Gilson
Chief Executive Officer