

Aboriginal Sorry Business

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

IT'S OUR JOB
PROTECT OUR MOB

To help keep mob safe and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Sorry Business must be done in different ways.

Under Stage 3 restrictions, **only 10 people can attend Sorry Business**, however the ceremony can be live streamed or recorded so others can be part of this important cultural gathering.

When restrictions are lifted, mob can make plans to hold a larger gathering so everyone can be together, but at the moment this is not allowed.

There is support available to help mob organise Sorry Business and keep community connected as much as possible during this time.

We understand that restricting events of cultural significance like Sorry Business is difficult and has a big impact on mob, but it's necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and keep Elders and communities safe.

What to do if a family member of loved one passes

Talk to mob and discuss different ways that Sorry Business can take place. This might mean only direct family can attend a funeral, and others can pay their respect by live streaming Sorry Business.

Live stream Sorry Business to help those who can't be at the ceremony stay connected via a virtual ceremony. This includes people who live in different states or countries. Funeral directors, churches, Aboriginal Victoria and some ACCOs can help organise live streaming or recording. See information below about how to organise a virtual ceremony.

Know the risk of leaving home. Elders, Aboriginal people over 50-years, or those that have a pre-existing health condition have an increased risk of contracting coronavirus (COVID-19). Those at risk should stay at home unless it's absolutely necessary to leave.

Stay connected with mob and pay respects to loved ones that have passed into the dream time. Check in with family and friends via messages, social media or phone to see how you can support each other without leaving home. Yarn with mob who may not be able to attend a service, including Elders and other mob at heightened risk.

Access support if you need it. Get in contact with your GP or local ACHO or ACCO to find out what help is available.

How to organise a virtual service

A virtual ceremony will help those who may not be able to attend Sorry Business in-person stay connected. Check with the family of the person that has passed if they would be open to sharing the funeral through a live stream or recording for those who are not able to attend in-person. Also confirm there is internet access available where the service will be held.

To organise live streaming or recording of Sorry Business you can:

1. **Contact the funeral director or church** to see if they can help organise a virtual service and have the equipment required, like cameras and internet access. Remember to share the information provided by funeral directors or churches with families and friends that may wish to take part in the virtual service.
2. **Use a smart phone device to record and live stream** the service. Remember to go to the App store and download Skype, Zoom or another live streaming app of your choice.

For Skype:

- Once you've downloaded Skype from the App Store or Google Play Store, you will need to sign in or create an account. Follow the prompts to set up your account.
- Visit <https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA34876/how-do-i-schedule-a-call-in-skype> for step by step details on setting up a video call.
- Please note: A basic, free Skype account can host up to 50 participants for 4 hours per video call.

For Zoom:

- Once you've downloaded Zoom from the App Store or Google Play Store, you will need to sign in or create an account. Follow the prompts to set up your account.
- Visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Quick-start-guide-for-new-users> and follow instructions to establish a video call.
- Please note: A basic, free account can host up to 100 participants but only for a maximum of 40 minutes on group meetings.

3. **Get help from Aboriginal Victoria**

AV's Local Aboriginal Network (LAN) brokers are available to support arrangements for a virtual service. This support includes access to live streaming accounts such as Zoom, Skype and Microsoft Teams. In addition, brokers can assist with access to equipment such as iPads, stands and microphones. Please note: LAN brokers will not be able to support funeral costs. Please contact your local broker to discuss ways that they can help.

How to pay respects if you can't attend a funeral

Connect with mob via phone, social media or online to check in and see how they're coping, think about ways you can support each other without leaving home.

Share your memories and messages of support with family and friends directly via phone, social media or online.

Send a card via post or online. You can write a personal message on an ecard and share with your loved ones via email.

Memorials can be organised by friends and family when restrictions have been lifted. You will be able to pay respects to family and friends in-person in the future if a public service is held, but this is not allowed at the moment.

LAN Broker Contacts

Region	Including	Broker	Phone
Barwon South West	Framlingham, Moyne, Geelong, Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong and Warrnambool	Shane Bell	0458 345 515
Barwon South West	Hamilton, Southern Grampians, Heywood, Glenelg and Portland	Sandra Bell	0427 480 190
Grampians	Central Highlands, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool, Pyrenees, Gariwerd (Halls Gap), Ararat, Northern Grampians, Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Yarriambiack and West Wimmera	Larry Kanoa	0400 168 668
Loddon Mallee	Marawarpina (Robinvale), Swan Hill, Yuranga and Mildura	Thelma Chilly	0437 684 763
Loddon Mallee	Bendigo, Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Echuca, Campaspe, Kerang and Gannawarra	Krystal Henderson	0427 258 836
Loddon Mallee and Hume	Kyabram, Greater Shepparton, Campaspe, Seymour and Mitchell	Joshua Atkinson	0427 438 379
Hume	Dirrawarra (Wangaratta), Benalla, Wangaratta, Gadhaba (Mansfield), Mansfield, Wodonga, Indigo and Wodonga	Darren Moffitt	0428 648 764
Gippsland	LaTrobe (Morwell), LaTrobe, Warragul, Drouin and Baw Baw	Garry Sattell	0437 970 835
Gippsland	Sale and Wellington	Leonie Solomon-Green	0408 054 152
Gippsland	Bairnsdale, East Gippsland, Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers, Orbost and Cann River	Alice Pepper	0437 985 840
North East Metro Inner East Northern	Healesville, Yarra Ranges, Ringwood/Croydon, Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse, Thornbury, Fitzroy, Banyule, Darebin, Nillumbik, Yarra and Melbourne	Cathy Austin	0447 163 292
Southern Metro Urban South	Dandenong, Cardinia, Casey, Greater Dandenong, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, St Kilda, Bayside, Kingston, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Glen Eira	Marcia Legg	0429 304 752
North West Metro	Hume, Moreland, Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Hobsons Bay	Debbie Evans	0409 185 831

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