



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE

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To Whom It May Concern

LIVESTREAMING AND RECORDING OF WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Under the *Emergency Management Act*, a State of Emergency has been declared. The community is aware that there have been a number of Directions made by me as the State Emergency Coordinator. There are further Directions made by the State's Chief Health Officer under the provisions of the *Public Health Act*. All these measures have been implemented to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe at this difficult time.

Following a review of an earlier Direction which restricted congregations and worshippers from attending places of worship, I have issued a new Direction *Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions* which was signed on 7 April 2020. This Direction will enable a place of worship to conduct livestreaming or pre-recorded telecasts through television, social media or other means for worshippers to participate in services from Good Friday onwards. (Copy attached.)

There is no limitation on the Direction in order that places of worship may continue to stream or telecast services on further occasions, beyond Easter, during the State of Emergency.

It is important that our community is able to exercise their faith, having access to services without requiring physical attendance. The principal position is that up to 10 persons (being a mix of technical/musical and clergy) can operate within the terms of the Direction, provided that they adhere to the 4 square metres of space dependant on the size of the place of worship. Obviously, those churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and other properties that conduct services in smaller areas may have to limit the number of participants to less than 10. This Direction does not permit worshippers and congregations to be present while the livestreaming or recordings are being conducted.

Should you have any further questions on this matter, do not hesitate to contact my office through email to commissioner@police.wa.gov.au.

CHRIS DAWSON
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE /
STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

8 April 2020