



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Pandit Ramachandra Athreiya
President
Australian Council of Hindu Clergy
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Dear Pandit Ramachandra Athreiya,

I would like to personally thank you for your strong leadership during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Thank you for informing me that you are following the advice of NSW Health, and thank you for ensuring all your priests and community are also following NSW Health advice.

As of 18 March 2020 the advice from NSW Health includes the following measures:

- 1) All entrants into Australia, including returning residents and citizens, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days;
- 2) A policy of social distancing has been implemented, this includes avoiding shaking hands, hugging or kissing other people, avoiding crowds, mass gatherings and small gatherings in enclosed spaces, attempting to keep a distance of 1.5 meters between themselves and other people where possible, and avoiding visiting vulnerable people such as those in aged care facilities or hospitals or people with compromised immune systems;
- 3) An Order under Section 7 of the *Public Health Act 2010* to force the immediate cancellation of public outdoor events with more than 500 people, individuals who fail to comply could face up to six months in prison and/or a fine of up to \$11,000 plus additional penalties for each day the offence continues;
- 4) An Order under the emergency powers of the *Public Health Act 2010* to ban all non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people (including staff).

Further the Commonwealth Government now advises that all Australians do not travel overseas at this time.

For your information I have included the Prime Minister's most recent media statement, the NSW Health Minister's most recent press release, a fact sheet and social media tiles and messaging for your use.

If any of your priests or community have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus where they can find out more information and the latest NSW Health updates.

Thank you once again for your strong leadership under these difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP

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