

## **Greater Melbourne & Mitchell Shire going to Stage 3 Lockdown for at least six weeks**

Good afternoon dear friends in Christ

The border between Victoria and NSW is already in lockdown – we have been working with affected congregations and pastors to access permits for border-crossing where relevant.

**For Public Health reasons, the Victorian Government has declared a Stage 3 lockdown effective from 11.59pm tonight, end of Wednesday 8 July.**

The Greater Melbourne area includes 31 Local Government areas, Geelong is *not* one of these – see the list in the attachment.

The attached notes from the Department of Health & Human Services Victoria, with points highlighted, provides a good overview of the Greater Melbourne lockdown.

In the Greater Melbourne area (including the Mitchell Shire to the North):

- You should stay at home
- Visitors are not allowed to your house
- There are no worship services with attendees, for at least 6 weeks.
- A maximum of 5 can be together to deliver/prepare a streaming service
- Weddings can have a maximum of five (5) persons (including celebrant)
- Funerals can only have a maximum of ten (10) persons in attendance (plus those required to run the service)
- There are only four (4) reasons to leave your home (see highlights in attachment)

While this is disappointing and frustrating, the health of the broad community is top of the Government's mind. These restrictions are made under a Declaration of a State of Emergency and hence are law.

We pray for strength, understanding, patience and compassion for all.

**For people in communities in Victoria outside Greater Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, your restrictions are mostly unchanged** – you can worship with a maximum of 20, with 1.5m social distancing and four square metres per person, together with strict cleaning practises and an attendance list being kept for 28 days (with contact phone numbers). You should not visit the Greater Melbourne area – more details in the attachment.

District Office is currently running on limited staffing due to school holidays, but if you have an urgent query we will try to address it. Please email [admin.vic@lca.org.au](mailto:admin.vic@lca.org.au) or telephone (03) 9236 1200.

Yours in His Service

Stephen Mildred  
District Administrator  
1pm Wednesday 8 July 2020