

### **Update 13 March 2020 @ 6 PM**

The World Health Organisation has now escalated the nature of Covid-19 to a pandemic level and the [Australia Government](#) is now taking necessary steps to contain and manage the spread of this virus.

[The Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has just announced that from Monday 16th March, all non-essential gatherings of 500+ will be banned throughout Australia. Mr Morrison said “churches with large followings might have to consider adding extra services to keep numbers under 500”.](#) This will obviously lead our large churches to reassess the situation and its impact.

However, regardless of the size of your church congregation, churches should be currently adhering to precaution and prevention advice (as detailed at [Victorian Conference Coronavirus Information](#)).

Pastors should be considering how, in the coming weeks, to maintain the welcoming presence of the church in their communities as well as maintain pastoral care for their members. Spreading the load around and helping to look after each other should be a priority.