

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

## MMM Australia's response to COVID-19

MMM Australia is a people centred organisation that seeks to serve the wider Christian community across Australia. We take seriously the wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, and key stakeholders along with those we serve in our ministry every day.

Over the past few days all State and Territory Premiers have declared a State of Emergency in their respective regions effective Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>, March 2020. We believe now is a time for communities to act and support each other. As of Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, we have enacted our Pandemic Management Plan with weekly review to ensure the wellbeing and safety of everyone working with MMM Australia.

We seek your support of all staff, volunteers, and supporters in achieving this and would ask if you or an immediate family member have recently returned from overseas or are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, that you avoid direct contact with our staff or other volunteers.

As CEO, I am asking staff and volunteers to restrict external face-to-face meetings where possible. In cases such as this technology is our friend and we encourage everyone to employ the use of digital platforms to enable necessary meetings to take place as an effective and safe alternative to meeting in person. The medical experts have advised governments to limit mass gatherings of groups to less than 500, and whilst this will not directly impact our operations or events, any public meeting of MMM for any reason should follow the guidelines restricting individual contact.

We will closely monitor each situation to ensure the safety of our project teams and specific groups across the organisation whether they meet in MMM locations or client premises. The first objective is while staying calm, to act in a cautious and responsible manner during these trying times, particularly to ensure the well-being of those within our communities who are vulnerable. We seek to be responsible members of the Australian community to play our small part in complying with directives and legislation to assist in the efforts of slowing down the anticipated spread of COVID-19.

As a volunteer organisation the greater majority of our teams are retired folk who are in in the most impacted range of the COVID-19 virus, it will hit those of this age group the hardest. During this time of unprecedented uncertainty, we continue to directly support all of our people throughout Australia on all project work, fundraising activities, and support functions. While we can, we will continue our important work through your support, it is during times like these where we appreciate your generosity more than ever. Please consider donating to enable us to continue providing the building construction, repairs, and maintenance to the Christian community at such a crucial time. Visit: – <a href="https://www.mmm.org.au/?page\_id=7628">https://www.mmm.org.au/?page\_id=7628</a>

We want to assure you that we continue to hold strong to our faith and know that we are not alone. We appreciate the ongoing practical and prayerful support shown by those who support us in our work.

Serving together with you in Christ Jesus.

**Terrence Baxter** Chief Executive Officer