



**The Rev. The Hon. Fred Nile MLC ED., L.Th.,**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES:**  
**AT THE END OF THE QUEUE AGAIN?**  
**For immediate circulation**

On 1 June 2020, the government will ease restriction on pubs, cafes, restaurants and clubs. The easing of restrictions will mean that up to 50 people will be able to gather at those venues from that time until further notice. Strangely, churches and religious gatherings did not make it onto the list. The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC makes the following comments:

- “The government’s failure to include religious communities and places of worship on the list of places where restrictions will be eased makes no logical sense.”
- “People of faith are no marginal group. Religious worship in NSW remains high despite the relentless attack on public expressions of Christianity throughout the nation.”
- “We have heard reports from overseas, most recently from California, where suicide and drug abuse has sky rocketed due to the restrictions imposed on that state. Churches and religious communities have provided emotional and mental health services to their constituents, and this is more important now than ever.”
- “It’s surprising that the government would relax restrictions on places like cafes, clubs and pubs, where attendees are much more random, but ignore places of religious worship, which are attended habitually by a consistent group of people. Obviously it is the secular places of congregation that pose a higher risk of spreading a contagion.”
- “I would think that after the horrendous spate of anti-religious legislation passed by the NSW government in its current term, they may be more sensitive to the very reasonable needs of the state’s religious communities.”
- “How else are we to interpret this seemingly intentional exclusion of places of religious communities from the list of places where restrictions are to be eased?”

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