

Sorry Business and Important Family Gatherings

31 March 2020

To slow the spread of COVID-19, new rules were introduced by the Government that limit funerals to 10 people. There is the risk of on the spot fines of \$1,000 to people who break these rules. The maximum fine is \$11,000 and 6-months jail time. You can read more about this [here](#).

It is important to talk with your mob about other ways to hold Sorry Business that will keep the community safe and help families to stay connected. Large gatherings, and even small gatherings inside, can spread COVID-19.

There are other ways to stay connected and grieve together safely:

- People can record messages on their phones for families to play at funerals.
- Talk to your church and funeral director about setting up a live stream for the funeral, e.g. set up a private Facebook event and live stream to this group. This allows friends and family to watch the funeral and be part of the ceremony from their homes.
- You can record the funeral to share and watch again later with others.
- Make plans to hold another ceremony later when the restrictions on gatherings are lifted.

It is hard having to change the way we do Sorry Business. You can always reach out to your local AMS for support and a yarn. You can also call the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 or free-call Lifeline 24/7 on 13 11 14.

For more information about Sorry Business and COVID-19 download the Centre for Aboriginal Health's Sorry Business Factsheet available [here](#).