



New South Wales

Public Health (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020

under the

Public Health Act 2010

I, Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research, under section 7 of the *Public Health Act 2010*, make the following Order.

Dated 15 March 2020.

Minister for Health and Medical Research

Explanatory note

The object of this Order is to deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences by giving a Ministerial direction that a person must not hold a public event at which there are, or are likely to be, 500 people or more in attendance at any one time.

Section 10 of the *Public Health Act 2010* creates an offence if an individual fails to comply with a direction with a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both) plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues. Corporations that fail to comply with a direction are liable to a fine of \$55,000 and \$27,500 each day the offence continues.

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1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Public Health (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020*.

2 Commencement

This Order commences on 16 March 2020.

Note. This Order commences at the beginning of 16 March 2020. See section 24 of the *Interpretation Act 1987*.

3 Definitions

(1) In this Order—

the Act means the *Public Health Act 2010*.

Note. The Act and the *Interpretation Act 1987* contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Order.

(2) Notes included in this Order do not form part of this Order.

4 Grounds for concluding that there is a risk to public health

It is noted that the basis for concluding that a situation has arisen that is, or is likely to be, a risk to public health is as follows—

- (a) public health authorities both internationally and in Australia have been monitoring international outbreaks of COVID-19, listed in the Act as Novel Coronavirus 2019,
- (b) COVID-19 is a potentially fatal condition and is also highly contagious,
- (c) a number of cases of individuals with COVID-19 have now been confirmed in NSW, as well as other Australian jurisdictions.

5 Direction of the Minister

- (1) The Minister directs that a person must not hold a public event at which there are, or are likely to be, 500 persons or more in attendance at any one time.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, this direction does not prevent—
 - (a) the ordinary conduct of a court, or
 - (b) the ongoing, day to day provision of educational services in educational institutions (being schools, universities, TAFE establishments and educational colleges), or
 - (c) the ongoing provision of transport services, or
 - (d) workers attending a workplace.
- (3) An event is a **public event** even if entry to the event requires the purchase of a ticket or the payment of an entry fee.

- (4) In this clause—
event includes any sporting, musical, cultural, entertainment, political or religious event or any festival.

6 Repeal of Order

This Order is repealed at the beginning of 14 June 2020.