New laws impact public gatherings, including funerals and Sorry Business

To protect our communities from coronavirus (COVID-19), the Government has made new laws that limit the number of people who can gather in public places.

For the time being, unless you are with people from your own household, or the gathering is essential to work or education, no more than two people can gather together in a public place.

Existing rules of no more than 10 people at a funeral and 5 at a wedding still apply.

You must now stay in your own home unless you are leaving for work, to get food, essentials or medicine, to exercise, or for education purposes.

All Aboriginal people over the age of 50 are advised to stay at home and away from other people from outside their own household as much as possible.

These new laws affect the way we go about cultural gatherings and ceremony, like Sorry Business.

Cultural gatherings are extremely important to our way of life, but right now, we have to make some temporary changes for the health and safety of our community.

Police can now issue on-the-spot fines for anyone who breaks the new laws, including $1000 for individuals. Maximum penalties could be as much as $11,000, or imprisonment for 6 months, or both, and a further $5500 penalty may apply for each day the offence continues.

You can keep yourself and your mob safe from coronavirus (COVID-19) by:

- Staying 1.5 metres away from people when you leave the home
- Washing your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds often (especially after getting home)
- Coughing and sneezing into your elbow
- Not touching your face
- Putting tissues in the bin right away

Don’t be the one to put the lives of people in your community at risk

You can spread coronavirus without being sick or knowing you have the virus. This is why it is so important to keep a distance from each other and not gather in large groups.

Stay at home as much as you can. Let’s work together to follow the health advice, and keep our communities safe from coronavirus (COVID-19).