

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021**

## **Funeral Directors Association Provides New Zealanders with Assurance as Level 4 Lockdown Continues**

The Funeral Directors Association has this morning provided New Zealanders that lose a loved one in Alert Level 4 that they can still have the assurance of a meaningful farewell. “Losing a loved one is hard at any time,” said Gary Taylor, President of the Funeral Directors Association, “but to lose one during Alert Level 4 has got to be one of the toughest.”

“During Alert Level 4 there are no funerals or viewings allowed, however Funeral Director Association members have the experience and creativity to support New Zealanders through Alert Level 4.” Taylor said, “including fully virtual viewings and funerals. There are options to consider, and we are available to provide advice and guidance on a full range of them.”

During Alert Level 4 funeral directors are an essential service and only registered funeral directors are allowed to handle deceased persons. This means that a family is unable to care for or transport a deceased person.

“All our members are registered funeral directors and in addition also follow a set of standards and are subject to ongoing monitoring of compliance with those standards,” said David Moger, Chief Executive of the Funeral Directors Association, “so if a family is faced with the loss of a loved one during this Level 4 lockdown, they can contact one of our members to get the help and support they need, assured that they can do so safely and to the highest of standards.”

“The funeral sector is currently largely unregulated, so it is easy for anyone to set up as a funeral director. Our standards, compliance monitoring and complaints process are only available through our members as your assurance of a meaningful farewell.” he said

“Funeral Director Association members have access to the latest advice and guidance on Covid19 protocols and have all the necessary skills and experience to keep families safe,” Taylor said, “so if you do lose a loved one, you can find a list of all our members on Find a Funeral Director on our website [www.funeraldirectors.co.nz](http://www.funeraldirectors.co.nz) and contact them straight away to get the care and support you need.”

During the previous lockdowns, the Funeral Directors Association worked with the Government on the different protocols for funerals and tangihanga at different alert levels and the ability for

members to continue to function as an essential service through a specific Covid19 Public Health Response Order. “As we get on top of this outbreak, it seems likely that we will again have a border between different areas at different alert levels,” Moger said “and we have reconfirmed with the Government that the Covid19 Public Health Response Order will be recognised to enable our members to travel regionally across alert levels to care for grieving families and their loved ones.”

Taylor commented “New Zealanders in shock and grief at losing a loved one can know that we are here to help them and that they do not need to delay in calling us.”

The Funeral Directors Association provides a range of free resources on its website to help New Zealanders who are grieving the loss of a loved one including one specifically for Alert Level 4.

**ENDS**

**For further information contact:**

Gary Taylor, Funeral Directors Association President on 027 222 3795

David Moger, Funeral Directors Association CEO on 021 622 523



The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand represents funeral directing companies that undertake the majority of funerals in New Zealand. They are a group of caring professionals who are committed to ensuring that the families they serve receive high-quality funeral service. For more information, visit our website: [www.funeraldirectors.co.nz](http://www.funeraldirectors.co.nz)