



# THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA

## Order of the Eastern Star

HAVING JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

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WORTHY GRAND SECRETARY  
MRS ELIZABETH TAYLOR  
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23rd April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers

### **MANAGEMENT OF OUR ORDER THROUGH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING PERIOD (2)**

We, the Most Worthy Grand Matron Sister Blanche Watt and Most Worthy Grand Patron Brother Paul Smith continue to hold all our members and their Chapters close to our hearts and in our prayers.

The Affairs of The United Grand Chapter of Australia will continue to be in accordance with Law U.29.

The Offices of the Worthy Grand Secretary, Worthy Grand Treasurer, Worthy Grand Supplies Officer, Worthy Grand Registrar and Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator will remain open.

To further clarify and assist in the ongoing management and planning for the future re-opening of our beloved Order, we issue the following Instructions.

#### **Grand Chapters**

1. The Grand Chapter of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory's Board of Grand Office-bearers for 2020-2021 have been installed. The affairs of this Grand Chapter, until the Grand Committees have been elected, will be delegated to the Ex-officio Members. The provision of any Special Committee uncaptured within the Grand Chapter Bye-Laws must be followed.
2. We, The Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron extend the Commissions of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Queensland until a date after the lifting of the Federal Government restrictions permit, so as to allow the Grand Chapter to be administered by the 2019-2020 Board of Grand Office-bearers. It is acknowledged that the length of this current term and the flow on impact is a matter for the Grand Chapter.
3. The date and planning of the Annual Meeting of the Grand Chapter of Victoria will require close monitoring by those concerned. The Worthy Grand Secretary must be advised of any decision made to allow time for the MWGM and MWGP to plan their travel.

#### **District Grand Committees**

1. It is envisaged at this time only District Grand Committees outwith the Grand Chapter of Queensland will be impacted. We, The Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron empower the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Queensland to extend any Worthy District Grand Matron's and Worthy District Grand Patron's Commission within their Jurisdiction when considered necessary until such a date is practical for their successors to be installed.

## **Chapters**

We acknowledge that some Chapter Installations have or soon will be impacted. Many Members are looking to the future and are questioning what is to be done. All Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons have had their Charity endeavours reduced. To assist in Members' deliberations:

1. Chapters may decide to continue with full elections and installation.
2. The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron may decide to continue for a second term and conduct elections for the other offices. Chapters need only follow the provisions in the new Chapter Ritual.
3. The Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron and all Office-bearers indicate they are willing to continue for a second term and no Installation meeting need be held. This must be indicated formally to the Chapter's Governing Level before the Chapter's Regular Installation Meeting.

We, the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron empower the relevant Governing Level Presiding Officer/s to extend the Chapter's term of office until the next Annual/Installation Meeting. This proclamation must be read at the Annual Meeting after Silent Sympathy and before Apologies. Law S.14 could be interpreted that if no Installation Meeting is held then all Office-bearers are sanctioned to complete another term. If any Office-bearer does not wish to continue, the Worthy Matron will declare the position/s vacant and instruct the Secretary to place the Election for the position/s on the next Agenda.

## **General**

1. Governing Level Presiding Officers may, if scheduling implications indicate, cancel a Chapter's Annual Visit within their Jurisdiction. They must ensure when the opportunity arises that the Books and Inspection of Records are conducted. The Books Inspection Report may be read when the Governing Level next visits or by the Chapter Secretary. This Report must be read in full.
2. Chapters are not required to request a Dispensation not to hold meetings each month during this period.

These Instructions and empowerment will remain in force until the Federal and State Government social distancing guidelines are lifted and receipt of advice is received from the Worthy Grand Secretary. Chapters may only then commence face to face meetings.

Yours in Star Friendship

*Blanche Watt*  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

*Paul Smith*  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

*Elizabeth Taylor*  
Worthy Grand Secretary