



12/09/2021

Honorable Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria.

Dear Mr. Premier,

At these times, with the spread of the Covid-19 virus around the world, which is having devastating effects internationally, we are all obligated to do our utmost to protect our health as laid out by the health authorities.

At the same time, however, we beg you to please consider our request to allow the Jewish community to conduct prayer gatherings in a safe and regulated manner. The ability to pray united with fellow Jewish congregants on the upcoming Jewish High Holiday known as the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) (Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at nightfall – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at nightfall) is very much an essential need for the Orthodox Jewish population in Victoria. On this day, Jewish people dedicate themselves to spiritual pursuits and prayer, and is for the Orthodox Jewish people as essential as sports and vital businesses are to the general population.

I am therefore writing to you to lend support to our brethren in Victoria to please allow them to work out guidelines with which to safely operate prayer-groups in a manner that will satisfy all parties.

Please thoroughly consider this request,

With Torah blessings,

יצחק יוסף  
הראשון לציון  
הרב הראשי לישראל

*Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef*  
*Chief Rabbi of Israel*