

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Update from the CEO re Visitation for Relatives to our Facilities**

**Anglican Care feels very strongly that our current visitor restrictions are in the best interests of our residents. It is a legal requirement for anyone entering an Aged Care Facility to be vaccinated against the flu.**

**Although visitor restrictions remain in place, it is important to ensure you are vaccinated to be able to visit your relative once restrictions are amended or for compassionate visits under the current arrangements.**

While few in number in Australia, the outbreaks of COVID-19 in residential aged care facilities have been catastrophic.

Anglican Care's priority is to prevent this from occurring at any of its residential aged care homes. Anglican Care's COVID Crisis Response team is continuing to meet regularly to discuss how best to approach any amendment of restrictions in a measured way.

On (Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April) Anglican Care issued a survey to residents and their families in relation to our current visitor restrictions. The majority of those surveyed were in favour of continuing our current restrictions.

Last week also saw the introduction of Anglican Care's Connecting Families program.

"We have been overwhelmed by how this has been received by our residents and their families. Already, there have been in excess of 200 bookings for virtual communication during the first week. Our priority moving forward is to work on increasing our flexibility and provide further opportunities for family members to communicate with their relatives," said CEO Colin Osborne.

"We are utilising all of the technology at our disposal to ensure communications and social interaction is a priority. Staff in each of our facilities are doing so much to provide interaction inside our homes, but of course we are all yearning for our families and we understand that."

On Friday afternoon (May 1<sup>st</sup>) the Federal Government released a draft Code of Conduct for visitors to Aged Care facilities and this was passed immediately to Anglican Care's residents and their families. It is anticipated the code will be finalised by Monday, May 11 with all comments and submissions closing at 3pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

"We are very aware the community has polarised views regarding restriction on visiting aged care homes. We encourage all of our residents and families to provide feedback on this document. Once the final code is issued, we will be in a position to advise of any changes to our visiting protocols," said Mr Osborne.

"I would like to pass on our thanks for the incredible support and understanding that has been, and continues to be, provided to us at this incredibly trying time for us all. It has been humbling.

"Our mantra at Anglican Care has always been that any decisions we make must reflect the "my mum, my dad test". This has never been more at the forefront of our minds than at this point in time."

**CEO Colin Osborne is available for comment or social distancing interview.  
Please contact Eclipse on 0415 499409 or [tracy@eclipsecommunications.com.au](mailto:tracy@eclipsecommunications.com.au)  
Released: 05.05.2020**