

7 September 2020

Anglican Care Advice to Residents, Consumers, Families & Friends – COVID-19 Update

Dear Residents, Consumers, Families & Friends

Re: COVID-19 Preparedness – Establishment of COVID-19 Facility – Magnolia Court

Supporting the residents and consumers in our care has never been more critical than in today's complex and ever-changing COVID-19 landscape.

As an organisation, we continue to take strong precautionary actions to ensure everyone in our large and diverse community remains safe. At the commencement of the pandemic, we commissioned our COVID-19 Response Team. Members of the team continue to meet regularly to ensure strategies are in place to prepare us for the possibility of an infection or outbreak. These actions are in addition to our usual robust infection control practices.

We have developed a comprehensive COVID-19 Pandemic Plan which includes the establishment of a dedicated location to provide care to any residents living in Anglican Care's residential aged care homes in the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid Coast regions if they test positive for COVID-19. This strategy will allow the provision of dedicated care for residents with the virus and will minimise the risk of transmission to other residents and employees. Our preference is for residents to be transferred to hospital for treatment of the COVID-19 virus, however in some instance this will not be possible. Our COVID-19 Care Facility will be available for consumers unable to be transferred to hospital.

Extensive thought has been given to the best location for the COVID-19 Care Facility. It has been agreed by the Board and Corporate Executive Group of Anglican Care, that it will be located in the currently de-commissioned Carey Bay Gardens residential aged care home, specifically in the Magnolia Court wing of the home. Anglican Care has been in close contact with the Department of Health and the Public Health Unit, both of whom support this approach. As evidenced by the current COVID-19 situation in Victoria and via lessons learnt from outbreaks at Newmarch House and Dorothy Henderson Lodge, both in Sydney, the transferring of residents with COVID-19 is the best option to limit the transmission of the virus within the home and in providing care to people with the infection.

At the date of this letter, no Anglican Care residents or consumers have tested positive to COVID-19. The safety of our residents, consumers, employees and volunteers remains our utmost priority, and we will continue to review our procedures and take strong action to ensure we keep them safe.

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact your Care Advisor, Manager of your residential aged care home or Kate McEwan (Infection Prevention Coordinator) via email katemcewan@anglicancare.com.au.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colin Osborne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Colin Osborne
Chief Executive Officer