



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 and provides an update about COVID-19 visitor restrictions. As usual, we are sharing this information with a wide range of people to ensure everyone is on the same page. This includes our residents and their representatives, our workforce including our amazing volunteers, local GPs, our company members, and the wider Southern Highlands Community.

### **Visitor restrictions – update**

As you know, the Wingecarribee local government area is currently subject to stay-at-home orders, which are not expected to lift before mid-October 2021. In accordance with the current public health advice this means we must continue to exclude all visitors, except for end-of-life and essential caring functions.

Residents are not permitted to leave their home, except for essential medical appointments. Residents who are able may also leave their home for a short walk if they wear a surgical mask, do not interact with any other person, and remain within 1km of the home.

We are mindful of the psychosocial health and wellbeing of residents during this difficult time and will contact families to provide regular updates or to arrange a visit if exceptional circumstances apply. We are actively working to prepare to reopen to visitors in October, as soon as it is safe to do so.

At this time, we expect that fully vaccinated visitors will enjoy the most freedom to visit when the restrictions ease. If you are not fully vaccinated but plan to visit, please use this time to organise your vaccination.

We are running a survey about visitor restrictions so we can understand attitudes to restrictions and consider those attitudes in our planning. The anonymous survey is a simple yes/no question:

“Would you support Harbison to permit visits by people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to residents who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, even if the public health advice prohibited or restricted such visits?”

If you would like to contribute to the survey, please use one of the links below by 9am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Burradoo <https://app.personcentredfeedback.com.au/survey/9/2/7ING2MMY>

Moss Vale <https://app.personcentredfeedback.com.au/survey/9/2/S0FSD7M7>

### **Vaccination status - update**

I am pleased to report that the Harbison workforce is 98% vaccinated. From tomorrow it is mandatory for all aged care workers in Australia to be vaccinated. A lot of hard work and flexible thinking has gone into vaccinating our workforce, and I thank all the staff and our colleagues in the public health system for making it happen.

More than 50% of eligible people in the Wingecarribee local government area are now fully vaccinated, and in some areas like Bowral, Burradoo, and Bundanoon (something to do with suburbs starting with B?) that rate is almost 70%. This is a great example of active citizenship, and we can be proud to be among the leading regional areas in NSW.

The government has indicated that restrictions will begin to ease for fully vaccinated people once the state achieves a 70% fully vaccinated rate for eligible people. This is reportedly estimated to occur on 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 based on current vaccination rates. However, please wait for the detail to be confirmed before making any plans for "Freedom Day".

Our resident vaccination rates remain high. As of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 89% of Burradoo residents and 96% of Moss Vale residents have had at least one dose, with the most of them fully vaccinated. Rates fluctuate because of new admissions, and some residents are not clinically suitable for vaccination.

### **Local risk assessment – update**

The number of local cases has increased, as predicted in my last letter. As of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021, there are 18 active cases in Wingecarribee, of which 15 have not been linked.

New case locations have been identified in Bowral and Mittagong today. For full details use this link <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx>

Because of the high proportion of unlinked active cases, and our proximity to other areas of concern, we expect the risk of new cases to remain high for *at least* another two weeks and urge everyone to take precautions seriously.

### **Motiview Road Worlds for Seniors – update**

As of last night, our teams have ridden more than 3,000km in the annual Road Worlds for Seniors competition. That compares to a very respectable 900km achieved last year for the entire competition, or to put it into a different context the 2021 Tour de France was 3,414km.

Our Moss Vale team is competing for the first time this year with two bikes purchased with donations from generous supporters. They are very competitive! Despite having only two bikes, compared to the three bikes available at Burradoo, they are currently placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the world, less than 200km behind the Burradoo team who are placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

Even more exciting, one of our Moss Vale women is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and we have four other women in the top 50 female ranking. We have six men in the top 50 male ranking including one each from Moss Vale and Burradoo in the top 10.

I don't know the secret to their success, but there might be a clue in this photo:



Congratulations to everyone for your success so far and thank you to the team of volunteers and staff who are supporting the ride.

Now that Motiview is established at Moss Vale it is available to all residents all year, not just during the Road Worlds competition. We are fundraising for at least one more THERA bike to make the program more accessible, and we are looking for more volunteers to support the ongoing program. If you would like to be a part of this unique program please contact our Partnership Manager, Zac Hulm at [zac.hulm@harbisoncare.org.au](mailto:zac.hulm@harbisoncare.org.au) or ph. 0410 435 148, and he can explain how to make a tax-deductible donation, sponsor a team, or join the volunteers.

The race is not over yet! The finish line will not be crossed until 1 October 2021. Please join me in cheering on our champions who are well on track to achieve their goal of a top 10 finish.

Thank you for reading this letter. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cochran'.

David Cochran  
**Chief Executive Officer**