



Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and provides a brief update about the COVID-19 outbreaks at Burradoo and Moss Vale. As always, we share this information to help everyone keep up with the changes.

I am sad to report that a second COVID-19 case died at Harbison Burradoo on the weekend, after the end of the 14-day isolation period. Our thoughts are with their family, and this second death is no less emotional for our staff. I note that this resident was palliating prior to becoming infected with COVID-19. Our remaining cases appear to be recovering well.

I am pleased to report that we have reached a stage in the outbreaks where every wing at both sites, except Alexandria and Lindsay, are being de-escalated to less restrictive precautions. This should permit residents of those wings to resume a more normal routine, and it will make visits at end-of-life or by Partners in Care less difficult.

Alexandria and Lindsay are still Amber and Red zones but if we detect no new cases these wings should de-escalate soon.

This means that we are ahead of expectations in our Outbreak Management Plan. As predicted at our last family meeting, we still expect Moss Vale to resolve before Burradoo, but we are now reasonably confident that both are on a faster timeline.

I will continue to provide regular updates, but I do not expect further decisions will be made before Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022. After the public health unit closes an outbreak, we enter a 14-day period of enhanced surveillance, and if no new resident cases are detected by the end of that period, then we expect the public health unit will declare the outbreak over regardless of ongoing workforce cases.

This means that we are currently tracking a best-case outcome and may resolve both outbreaks by early February 2022. Of course, the ongoing risk to residential aged care is high. As of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 39% of COVID-19 deaths in Australia have occurred in residential aged care. We expect that ongoing precautions will remain high and do not expect pre-outbreak conditions to return for some time.

The reasons we have been able to manage these outbreaks so effectively include a combination of early detection using rapid antigen tests, the flexibility of our workforce in converting to 12-hour shifts, very high vaccination rates, competent use by our staff of PPE and transmission precautions, milder symptoms associated with Omicron, and a very effective Outbreak Management Team who have met every day for 21-days now to ensure nothing is missed and no effort is spared.

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If you are enrolled in Partnerships in Care, please contact us if you need any help at all. We expect to have our first Partners on site this week and expect that this program will be a permanent feature in future outbreaks. It will certainly help our residents through the remainder of these outbreaks.

Thank you for the ongoing messages of support. Our teams are grateful for the acknowledgement and kindness. Thank you for reading this letter. Our next family meeting is at 11am this Wednesday and I hope to see everyone there.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cochran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Cochran  
Chief Executive Officer