

Thursday, 30 June 2022

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter dated Tuesday, 21 June 2022 and includes an update about the COVID-19 outbreak at Burradoo. As usual, we are sharing this information with residents and their representatives, our workforce, local general practices, and the wider community.

Burradoo COVID-19 outbreak - update

The COVID-19 outbreak began 24-days ago. However, there are now only two active cases. We are conducting PCR testing of all residents today to confirm whether there are any asymptomatic cases which have evaded rapid antigen testing. If the results are negative, we intend to release all wings except Lindsay and Glenquarry from isolation.

Until we receive those test results, we strongly recommend that residents remain in their rooms unless they wish to take some fresh air and exercise outdoors. Residents should not enter other wings or communal areas like the kitchen or dining rooms.

We hope to receive the test results within 24 hours, so with luck most residents will soon be able to resume normal routines, including receiving visitors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have been caring for isolating residents, working additional hours, working in unfamiliar roles and areas, and committing to 12-hour shifts. Thanks also to the administrative staff who have been helping with meals etc. And special mention to the Lifestyle team for keeping the show on the road during the outbreak.

Outbreaks place a heavy burden on the workforce as the number of exposed staff increases, creating unpredictable impacts on the roster. Your kindness, generosity, flexibility, good humour, and skill make you exemplars of how to respond to an outbreak.

Partners-in-Care

Partners-in-Care are an important part of our team and provide ongoing care and support to residents especially during outbreaks. The Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission provides information about the program here

<https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/resources/partnerships-in-care>

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a Partner-in-Care for your resident, please contact:

- **Burradoo** - Rebecca Glover
E Rebecca.Glover@harbisoncare.org.au
T 02 4868 6215
- **Moss Vale** Elly Alcock
E Elly.Alcock@harbisoncare.org.au
T 02 4868 6204

We will be living with COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns for the foreseeable future, so we encourage everyone who is capable of using PPE and following other basic precautions to take advantage of this opportunity.

We hosted the weekly family Zoom meeting last Tuesday, and families have asked me to pass on their thanks and appreciation to our staff. A reminder that if anyone wants to nominate a member of our team, the Rewards & Recognition program can be accessed using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8yeea6> or QR code



We have another family Zoom meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, 5 July. The details and link are in the covering email. Everyone is welcome to join.

PBS listing of COVID-19 antiviral medication

We have been drawing down on stocks of the COVID-19 antiviral medication to treat cases. These stocks were supplied by the Commonwealth pending listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Now that the medicine has been listed, it is available

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from the pharmacy like other medication. The cost is \$42.50 per script, or as little as \$6.80 with a concession card.

Your GP will prescribe this medication if they assess that it will be appropriate and effective. Research shows that the antiviral medication is highly effective at preventing death and hospitalisation if administered within 5-days of infection. Our experience in this outbreak has been very positive, with all residents tolerating the medicine and reporting insignificant to mild symptoms.

June resident survey

The monthly survey closes today. If you have not provided any feedback this month, please let a member of staff know and they will help you to complete the survey. Thank you to the 86 residents who have completed the survey already. Survey results are available in the newsletter.

Aged Care funding – have your say

The Government has announced that care funding will increase by only 1.7% in the next financial year. This compares to inflation of 5.1% in the past 12-months (which is expected to increase) and a 9% increase for NDIS funding (plus additional COVID-19 funding). This will create an increase in the gap between funding and costs, placing significant financial pressure on all aged care providers.

The Prime Minister has promised that aged care will be a priority, but the funding announcement does not align with that promise. If you would like to let your local Senator and Member of Parliament know what you think about this issue, then use this link

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members

Just enter your postcode in the field at the bottom of the page and their name and contact details will be displayed. Unless our elected representatives hear from us about the importance of aged care, they will calculate that it does not matter.

Harbison is proud to be the only local residential aged care service which does not charge additional fees to residents. Further, we aim to provide up to 50% of our places to people who cannot afford to pay for their accommodation. That means that more than 150 families each year benefit from quality aged care which they could not otherwise afford or access. Unfortunately, this position is unsustainable unless there is a more realistic approach to rising costs from our government.

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Harbison is a charity - make a tax-deductible donation today

It is the last day of the financial year. Donations of more than \$2 to Harbison are tax deductible, so if you would like to support us and reduce your tax bill please contact our Finance Manager, Charlene Shi, on Charlene.Shi@harbisoncare.org.au or 02 4868 6203 today.

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope to update you very soon about the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Yours sincerely



David Cochran
Chief Executive Officer

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