

Tuesday, 19 July 2022

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter dated Thursday, 14 July 2022 and provides a brief update about the COVID-19 outbreaks at Burradoo and Moss Vale. As usual, this letter is being provided to our residents and their families, our workforce, our company members, local general practices, and the Southern Highlands community.

### **COVID-19 outbreak update**

I am pleased to report that our response to the outbreaks at both homes has so far been effective.

Our highest risk remains the outbreak in Alpine at Moss Vale, where our residents are living with dementia and have less ability to comply with infection prevention and control. In Alpine, we are monitoring three (3) active cases, which is a reduced number and reflects very well on the care teams who have been supporting those residents. We have been working with Dementia Support Australia to access additional support for some of our Alpine residents.

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#### **Harbison**

Gundungurra Country  
T 02 4868 6200  
reception@harbisoncare.org.au  
www.harbisoncare.org.au

PO Box 349  
Bowral NSW 2576  
ABN 23 001 507 624  
Registered NDIS Provider

#### **Burradoo**

2 Charlotte Street  
Burradoo NSW 2576  
F 02 4868 6476

#### **Moss Vale**

36 Yarrawa Road  
Moss Vale NSW 2577  
F 02 4869 3214

We are monitoring five (5) other cases at Moss Vale, spread between Berrima, Penrose, and Joadja. We have isolated these wings from the rest of the building and written to residents to strongly recommend that they remain in their rooms for the time being or exercise in the gardens if they are worried about catching COVID-19. However, for residents who choose to accept the risk, the dining room and activities programs remain available in slightly modified formats. We have ceased tier 3 PPE in Avoca, which was being used as a precaution due to proximity to Alpine.

At Burradoo, we are monitoring three (3) cases in Lindsay and Gibraltar, but have released half of Lindsay from isolation. This is a significant improvement and again reflects well on the way our care teams have managed this outbreak.

We continue to test residents every 48-hours and continue to experience unplanned leave as staff are required to furlough in accordance with public health guidance. For now, there are no changes in visitor restrictions. The Outbreak Management Team continues to meet daily, and we will provide you with another update soon.

It is important to remember that there are 857 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes across Australia. These outbreaks reflect the third wave in the community, which is yet to peak. Harbison is well prepared and working with public health authorities and local primary health care providers to manage the outbreaks and ensure that our residents receive the best possible care. Families of unwell residents are being provided direct updates, and our teams are working hard to minimise the impact of the outbreak.

Thank you for reading this letter. We have a Harbison Family & Friends Zoom meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Fran has put the details in the covering email, for those who would like to participate.

Yours sincerely,



David Cochran

**Chief Executive Officer**