



Friday, 12 August 2022

Dear friends and colleagues,

This letter follows my letter dated Friday, 5 August 2022 and provides an update about the COVID-19 outbreaks at Moss Vale and Burradoo. As usual, we share this information with our residents and their representatives, our workforce including our growing team of amazing volunteers, local health providers, our company members who represent the Southern Highlands, and the broader community.

COVID-19 outbreaks – update

I am pleased to report that we have no active cases of COVID-19 at either Harbison home. The Public Health Unit has formally closed the latest outbreaks, noting **“the superior effort of your entire team in managing the COVID-19 outbreak at Harbison”**.

36 residents and 35 staff were linked to these outbreaks. Unfortunately, one (1) resident died with COVID-19 and one (1) resident is still in hospital recovering.

What happens now? We enter a period of enhanced surveillance to ensure there are no further undetected cases and we begin to de-escalate our Outbreak Management Plan. There will be no changes to visitor restrictions during this period. Partners-in-Care and end-of-life visitors are permitted, but other visitors are not.

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Fortunately, in Australia the number of reported cases and the number of residential care outbreaks are declining. However, the risk of community transmission remains high. For this reason, residents who attend family gatherings and social outings are strongly encouraged to avoid COVID-19 by wearing a mask indoors and asking others to stay away if they are unwell. We strongly recommend that residents continue to attend medical appointments.

Burradoo refurbishment – update

Burradoo has been undergoing a light refurbishment, centred around the installation of a new call bell system in Lindsay, Gibraltar, Chisholm, and Alexandria wings, to improve safety for residents.

We are nearing the end of the project and have now completed the installation of automatic doors to the dining and lounge room exits to improve access to the gardens. A new loading dock has been installed to improve management of laundry and waste during outbreaks, and the first two (2) suites in Lindsay will be handed over soon. The new nurse call system is operational, but some ancillary systems are still being installed.

Thank you for your patience during this work. We hope the improvements will benefit residents and staff and expect the work will be completed in several months.

Welcome Milo

Our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Milo, is settling in well and making friends with staff and residents. Thank you to the generous people who donated the funds required to bring Milo to Harbison. We hope that the additional pet therapy provided by Milo will benefit everyone for years to come.

Burradoo hostel closure – update

We have completed the latest transfers from the Burradoo hostel to Moss Vale and are happy to report that our latest transferees are settling in very well.

Unfortunately, the transfers were delayed by the latest outbreaks.

We now have 27 residents in the hostel and continue to work with them to ensure they are supported during the transition. The Harden Lounge remains closed to residents due to recent storm damage, but the new lounge area adjacent to the dining room appears to be working well. We will provide an update to residents at the next resident meeting, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Family Zoom meetings

As you know, during outbreaks we host a weekly Family Zoom meeting for families to ensure they have an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, or raise concerns. Now that we have closed the outbreaks, we will revert to our normal monthly meetings with a broader range of topics than COVID-19. If you are interested in joining these meetings simply let Fran McPherson know (fran.mcpherson@harbisoncare.org.au) and she will send you the link.

Thank you for reading this letter. Working together, we hope to avoid any further COVID-19 outbreaks for as long as possible. Please remember that influenza and RSV are also circulating in the community and pose a threat to vulnerable people like our residents. You must stay away if you are unwell.

Yours sincerely,



David Cochran
Chief Executive Officer