

18 May 2020

Dear Village Resident,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these challenging times. While it is pleasing that some of the restrictions in the community are being relaxed, there was a timely reminder on the weekend of the need to remain vigilant where a staff member in an aged care home tested positive, resulting in a number of residents being evacuated. We continue to screen every staff member and visitor coming into both the aged care homes and support services, including taking temperatures and asking a series of questions to assess the risk.

It is pleasing that at this point there have been no positive cases to COVID-19 in any of our homes or villages, and we have tested 103 staff and 49 residents. I am very grateful for the efforts of everyone involved, and appreciate that it has been difficult for many of you who enjoy the social connection that village life provides, so thank you for your patience and for practicing social distancing and hand hygiene, particularly when you are out in public.

It is encouraging that the processes that have been implemented have so far been effective; however, we continue to plan for the possibility of an outbreak, with progress being made on the Special Care Unit at Warilla. The modifications have been made to the area that will be used for any resident of an aged care home or village that tests positive and requires care and support, and additional training has been arranged through the Local Health District for the staff that will be working in the Special Care Unit. While we hope that the unit won't be needed, we continue to plan that it will need to be utilised. I would like to acknowledge the support of the village residents at Warilla for their understanding that the implementation of the Special Care Unit may involve them not having access to the Village Hall for a period of time, and we would continue to work with them on suitable alternatives.

This week is Volunteers Week, and I know that many of you do volunteer work both within and outside Warrigal. We are also looking at how many of our volunteers can still provide valuable support to the Warrigal community, and many of them are now making phone calls to residents that may be feeling socially isolated. If you would like a volunteer to call you and have a chat on a regular basis please let our Village Services Team or the Community Facilitator at Shell Cove or Queanbeyan know.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CS" or similar initials.

Craig Smith  
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities