

01 April 2021

## Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The past week has seen a lockdown in Queensland with some positive cases in NSW linked to the Queensland cluster, and an increased focus in the media on the timing of the rollout of the vaccine in aged care homes. This was highlighted last week that the number of residents receiving the vaccination was well below the initial goal, but with supply of the vaccine increasing, the numbers will increase significantly over the next month.

The recent outbreak has reminded us that until most people within the community are vaccinated we need to ensure that we operate in a “COVID normal” manner, which means hand hygiene, temperature checking and where possible practicing social distancing in the community. This is particularly important as the lower supply numbers of the vaccine have meant that most staff have not yet received their vaccinations, and will need to wait for a staff clinic to be scheduled or attend one of the clinics that will set up in the community.

We are now entering the influenza season, and the delay in the COVID vaccines will have an impact on the timing of the influenza vaccines being administered, as there needs to be at least 14 days in between the vaccinations. There has been no advice provided at this stage on whether NSW Health will again make it mandatory for anyone entering an aged care home to have the flu vaccine, but after the evidence of last year with the lack of outbreaks, we will be strongly encouraging staff and visitors to have the flu vaccine.

On Saturday last week, we received advice of the dates for the vaccination at Goulburn, which means that we now have confirmation of the dates of all homes. These are subject to change based on the supply of the vaccine and the availability of the teams that have been engaged for the vaccinations, which happened this week, with the second vaccination at Calwell moved to next week. The updated table below reflects the current dates, and shows in red those that have been completed.

| Aged Care Home | Vaccination Dates    |                      | Provider                 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose |                          |
| Stirling       | 24/02/2021           | 17/03/2021           | Aspen Medical            |
| Calwell        | 12/03/2021           | 7/04/2021            | Sonic Healthcare         |
| Coniston       | 18/03/2021           | 8/04/2021            | Australian Defence Force |
| Queanbeyan     | 30/03/2021           | 20/04/2021           | Sonic Healthcare         |
| Warilla        | 1/04/2021            | 22/04/2021           | Australian Defence Force |

|                  |            |            |                  |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| MT Warrigal      | 6/04/2021  | 27/04/2021 | Aspen Medical    |
| Albion Park Rail | 7/04/2021  | 28/04/2021 | Aspen Medical    |
| Mount Terry      | 8/04/2021  | 29/04/2021 | Aspen Medical    |
| Shell Cove       | 8/04/2021  | 29/04/2021 | Aspen Medical    |
| Goulburn         | 16/4/2021  | 7/5/2021   | To be confirmed  |
| Bundanoon        | 23/04/2021 | 14/05/2021 | Sonic Healthcare |

This week there were a number of relative meetings held with families from the homes in Canberra providing some valuable feedback on how the integration has been managed, and the expectations they have from Warrigal, while the meeting with relatives of Mount Terry also provided some encouraging feedback on the communication they have received and the preference for future communications. There are no meetings scheduled for next week, with the next ones being Albion Park Rail on 14 April followed by Mt Warrigal on 16 April 2021.

One of the key areas of focus in the Royal Commission recommendations was about strengthening the workforce and attracting more people with qualifications to the sector. In order to highlight to the Government the need for increased funding, a campaign was launched in February, called “Care About Aged Care” which is designed to ensure we have the resources to deliver the sector improvements that we know are necessary. The campaign asks individuals that are concerned to sign an online petition that generates a letter to your Local Member of Parliament. There have been over 25,000 people sign the petition, and if you feel that additional funding will support the sector, please use the link below to support the campaign.

<https://www.careaboutagedcare.org.au/>

Finally, I hope that you all have a lovely Easter break, and get the opportunity to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

Please do not hesitate to contact Warrigal by email at [warrigal@warrigal.com.au](mailto:warrigal@warrigal.com.au) with any feedback you might have or by calling our information line on Customer Relations Information Line on 1800 927 744.

Yours Sincerely,



**Craig Smith**  
**Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities**