

23 April 2021

## Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

Earlier this week media reports focussed on the 'travel bubble' that was opening between New Zealand and Australia. The 'bubble' allows quarantine-free travel between the two countries after a year or so of having the borders closed. I know some families and friends are already planning to take advantage of the travel 'bubble' to visit residents/customers. It's good news to hear that residents/customers and their loved ones are planning to catch up.

Moderating the good news was confirmation a day after the 'bubble' opened that a cleaner at a New Zealand airport tested positive to COVID-19 despite being immunised reminding us again 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.

The Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-Out continues and as at 21 April 1.785 million Australians has now been vaccinated, 68,000 in the past 24 hours. In terms of aged care and disability, 189,321 people have received the vaccination while 1,401 care homes have been visited for their first dose and 817 care homes visited for their second dose. The National Cabinet are now meeting twice weekly and one of the outcomes announced this week was the establishment of state-run clinics for people over 50 years of age to offer the AstraZeneca vaccination from 3 May 2021 and it will be provided at GP clinics from 17 May 2021. This will be important for our staff, and we have had preliminary discussions with Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District about vaccinating our staff.

In terms of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out at Warrigal, there are now five homes that have now received their second dose and immunisation for them is now complete. There are still six care homes to receive their second dose after Bundanoon received their first dose today. 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 Warilla being pushed back by a day. 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	23/04/2021	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	Aspen Medical
Bundanoon	23/04/2021	14/05/2021	Sonic Healthcare

In addition to the roll-out of the vaccine we continue to ensure that any resident that shows any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is tested, we have now tested 270 residents/customers and 772 employees to keep residents/customers and staff safe.

We are now entering the influenza season, and the delay in the COVID-19 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 still 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, however, it is mandatory in ACT.

One of the key areas of focus in the Royal Commission recommendations is Standard One which relates to consumer dignity and choice. In that regard over the last few weeks, there were a number of relative meetings held with families from our aged care homes providing some valuable feedback on a number of issues including the expectations they have from Warrigal and what can be done to improve services to ensure all Aged Care Standards (including Standard One) are being met.

In relation to Standard One, in the past week we had nearly 2,000 compassionate visits to our 11 care homes, 97 outdoor visits occurred, 119 residents/customers left the home for a social visit and 70 residents/customers enjoyed a bus trip. Residents/customers continue to choose the activities they are interested in.

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**