

12 June 2020

Dear members of the Bethany Christian Care Family

COVID-19 UPDATE

It's good to see restrictions loosening in the general community as the pandemic situation improves in Queensland.

By God's grace we have not had any COVID infection among our Bethany Christian Care residents and staff, and Australia has been spared the high infection and death rates we have seen in other countries.

No changes to aged care restrictions

Some of you may be wondering what is happening about restrictions for aged care residents.

At this time, there is still a legally binding Aged Care Direction by the Chief Health Officer (now on its fifth version), and restrictions for visiting and leaving aged care facilities have not been loosened. Of course, if this situation changes, we will let you all know.

An *Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19* has been released by aged care peak bodies and consumer advocacy organisations. A copy of the Code can be found here: <https://lasa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Industry-Code-RAC-Visits-FINAL-11-May-2020-1.15pm.pdf>.

The Code seeks to create a nationally consistent approach that ensures residents can receive visitors while minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19. Our visiting arrangements are consistent with the Code.

Arriving for visits

As you know, we use a booking system to manage visits to our aged care residents. Visitors are requested to please arrive at least 5-10 minutes before their booked visiting time. This allows the required pre-visit checks to be completed in a timely manner and assists our staff and volunteers who escort visitors to into the aged care facility.

If you think you will be unable to arrive at least 5-10 minutes before your booked visiting time please contact the relevant reception before your booked time slot so they do not hold up other visitors from being escorted into the aged care facility.

Bethany Christian Care is a not-for-profit organisation. To benefit our residents:

- Donations are tax deductible
- Our investment fund is exempt from the Centrelink/ Veterans' Affairs deeming provisions
- We are thankful for bequests.

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"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Changes to retirement village restrictions

Since my last letter the Queensland Government has announced further loosening of some of the restrictions that apply to our retirement villages. As a result of those changes, we are working to open or restart a number of facilities and activities soon. This requires some careful planning and resourcing to make sure we can meet the Queensland Government's re-opening conditions and properly protect our residents, volunteers and staff.

Things that we are working to re-open or re-start soon are...

- In-person group devotions and other activities in village halls,
- Village cafes, and
- Village buses.

The following village facilities have already re-opened...

- Libraries,
- Pools and spas, and
- Playground and BBQ area.

Conclusion

The welfare, health and safety of our residents and staff is our top priority. At all times, our decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic seek to faithfully achieve that priority. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this issue further, please contact Bethany Christian Care Head Office (07 3737 5080; bethany@bethanycc.org.au).

I am thankful for your continued prayers for all the Bethany Christian Care Family.

Kind regards,



Rohan Reid
CEO