

BlueWave Living

August Newsletter



A Message from our CEO

Our thoughts are certainly with those in Victoria at present. The impact COVID-19 is having on that state, and in particular those in our industry is devastating. How quickly this disease is continuing to spread world wide is alarming. Last month I noted the milestone of 10 million cases worldwide had been reached, with predictions of it getting to 20 million by September. Just one month on, and there are now well over 16 million confirmed cases. 20 Million will be reached well before we are even half way through August. Of course the real tally would be much higher than this confirmed result. Fighting an invisible enemy, one that can spread undetected is extremely challenging. All we can do is take steps to reasonably reduce risk, whilst still being able to live our lives.

In aged care, our staff are very much on the front line, and the impact on elders in care and the staff that provide that care is being hit very hard in Victoria. Facilities in greater Melbourne were in lock down over a month ago, as community transmission was occurring there – as I commented on last month. That was to reduce the risk of visitors bringing the virus into the facility unknowingly. However you still require staff to provide care. As the Victorian Premier has noted, when there is significant community transmission, then there will be staff affected – and unknowingly transmit the virus to others before any symptoms show. It is a challenge, there is no easy answer, and all we can do is take reasonable steps to reduce risk based on localized information. Facilities in Melbourne did take those steps, however there are now 65 plus facilities across Melbourne that are impacted by COVID-19. That is sadly the impact of broad community transmission. The acute sector is not untouched either. Hospitals have had to shut down entire sections, some are operating on skeleton staff, infections continue to occur within the acute setting, including unfortunately with newborns. All this highlights is the need for suppression of the virus, which is a community effort – not just one for Aged Care operators or the Health system.

BlueWave has been proactive from early days in taking steps to minimise risk, and build supplies. We increased our staffing levels as much as we reasonably could to ensure infection control measures were in place with additional cleaning etc 7 days a week, and clinical staff were being well supported with additional support shifts added. We invested considerably in sourcing additional PPE at grossly inflated prices, and even purchased an additional shipping container to have on site for additional storage for these items. But there is a limit to what we can reasonably achieve. There has been extreme shortages of some PPE items – gowns in particular, masks at various times, gloves are now in short supply. The cost of these PPE items is extraordinary – and as an industry, we are not funded for that.

To put our funding in perspective, we are funded in total at approx. \$200 per occupied bed per day for operational costs. Hospitals are funded at approx. \$1700- \$2000 per bed (whether occupied or not) per day. To suggest Aged Care operators can operate as an acute hospital in managing an outbreak within their facility, is simply grossly misleading. We are not equipped as Hospitals are. We are not staffed at the same levels and are funded at approx. 10% the level of a hospital.

We are also extremely reliant on the community to do the right thing to help reduce the risk to us. We can only continue as a community to work towards suppressing this disease, until such time as a viable vaccine is readily available to allow society to return to normal. At times this may mean that Aged Care operators have to take steps to minimise risk as best they can, with the resources available to them. It also means as a community, we all play a part in this in our day to day lives.

I thank everyone for their understanding and support in this, for us as an organization, as we navigate our way through these challenging times. And I thank our wonderful team of staff for continuing to work through these challenging times. The positive attitude and ability to continue to have fun and provide a warm caring environment for our Elders in care is wonderful to see.

In recognition of that, BlueWave has committed to paying all our staff the WorkForce bonus. This is a federal scheme, however was only funded to provide a bonus to those providing direct hands on nursing care to our residents – under a very prescriptive model, which excluded a significant portion of our workforce. Staff such as cleaners, administration, laundry, maintenance and even some nursing staff were excluded under the Federal bonus scheme. As such, I am pleased to advise that BlueWave will ensure all staff who are employed by BlueWave will receive this bonus, at our cost. We work together as a team to achieve wonderful outcomes, and this should be rightly recognized.

As I touched on in opening with, our thoughts of course remain with everyone who has been impacted in some way by this COVID-19 virus, both here and internationally.

Till next time, take care.

Matthew Downie





A big welcome to our new residents
Doreen Flynn, Angelina Hanssen, Cath Harding, Peter Lane,
James Madden, Poppy Oughton and Noel Saint-Guillaume

Farewells

We would like to acknowledge the following residents who are no longer at BlueWave Living: Margot Cotton, Joan Horsnell, Barb Lutton and Veronica Mottinelli.

What's ON! AUGUST

Resident Activities!

At present all activities will be carried out inhouse by our staff. Each area has a calendar which lists daily activities!

You can view the calendars here:
bluewaveliving.org.au/residents/

Key dates this month....

12th August St Lukes
19th August St Lukes



First Week of August

Horses Birthday Celebrations
with horse themed games
and movies



Are your contact details up to date?

Communication is a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please make sure we have your current contact details, especially your email address and mobile number.

Please email any updates to
reception@bluewaveliving.org.au

Thank you

RAD Statements

Annual Refundable Accommodation Deposit / Bond Statements will be forwarded at the beginning of August.

Take this as an opportunity to review a resident's financial details held by Services Australia to ensure aged care fees are accurate and minimised, and pensions maximised.

Bastille Day



Introducing our new Online Visitor Booking System.

To ensure the continued well-being of all BlueWave Living residents, staff and visitors, we have implemented a new visitor booking system

From Monday 20th July 2020, to comply with the Government's Safe Management Measures, BlueWave Living is implementing a new digital visitor booking and check-in system.

How does it work?

If you are visiting a resident in a shared room, pre booking is required.

All other visitors are encouraged to pre book to save time when arriving at the facility.

Once you arrive at BlueWave Living for your visit, those who have pre booked may proceed directly to reception for a temperature check and confirmation of flu vaccination details.

For those who have not made a booking please proceed to an available tablet to complete the sign in process. Once this is completed you may proceed to reception for a temperature check and confirmation of flu vaccination details.

To book a visit to BlueWave Living, please fill in the details via this link
<https://bluewave.zipline.care/>.

In these challenging and changing times, we thank you for your full cooperation and support, as a part of the national effort to contain the community spread of COVID-19.

