

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

Dear Residents, Family and Friends,

With the lockdown continuing far longer than any of us wished for, there remains no changes to current restrictions and guidance we operate under. BlueWave Living will continue to remain closed to visitors until we are advised otherwise. I am personally hopeful that if the Central Coast region can remain free of community transmission, there may be some relaxation of restrictions in September for us on the Central Coast. However it is clear that Greater Sydney will be in a state of lockdown most likely through until Christmas now.

So reminding all, currently;

- No Visitors are allowed into BlueWave Living. Our doors will remain closed to visitors.
- Exceptions may be allowed for those providing essential caring functions (such as for any resident who may be palliating). These must be approved by the clinical management team.
- Residents cannot leave BlueWave unless they meet one of the four reasons to leave home under the lockdown order. From a practical perspective, the only reasonable reason a resident may leave the facility is if they have a necessary medical appointment or similar to attend. Residents must abide by the Public Health Order in place as well.

I am pleased to advise that our staff are now 97% vaccinated first dose, and second dose is around 45% and growing daily. However there have been on-going access challenges to Pfizer doses for our staff, and many have had their second dose vaccination pushed back a week or two. I expect by mid September our staff will essentially all be fully vaccinated – which is comfortably ahead of the Federal Governments target of all staff in Aged Care having had their first vaccination by September 17. Our residents vaccinations remain above 90% for all residents. Some have elected (or their family) to not be vaccinated.

I am acutely aware of how hard it has become for residents and families not being able to visit one another. It is a situation we all find ourselves in. Personally, I have aging parents living on their own in regional Victoria. Over the last 18 months I have only been able to arrange to visit them the once for about a week. I had planned several other visits, however they always get cancelled with the revolving door of state and regional lockdowns occurring severely limiting options. I take comfort in the fact they are both fully vaccinated, and are generally in good health for their age, although do have some health challenges. They have no family living nearby anymore, and my sister lives overseas and unable to travel back easily, however they have a good circle of friends in the community. Regular phone calls is the way we stay in touch, coupled with a bit of social media via a family group on What's App. Unfortunately, that is the world we currently live in.



As previously advised, our team are able to help facilitate video calls via tablets with residents (in addition to phone calls). Please email or call us to arrange a booking. They are also happy to assist residents in other aspects, such as accessing social media and the like.

Our team will continue to provide excellent care for your loved ones and engage in our normal extensive range of activities (with appropriate changes to meet current guidelines). There has been some very creative activities occur over the last couple of months. We regularly post what is happening daily on our facebook page – please follow us there if you haven't already.

Please remember our staff are very much on the front line in this pandemic. They do a fantastic job in continuing to care for all our Elders living here, and we are thankful for such a wonderful team.

I again continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to obtain the COVID vaccine to do so. That is clearly the only path out of continued lock downs and restrictions such as we are facing, both in our industry and the broader community.

As always, thank you all for your on-going support and patience during these times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Downie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Downie  
CEO