

16 April 2021

Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The past week has seen an increase in the number of Australians receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, with over 1.3 million now vaccinated, compared to 920,000 last week, including more than 158,000 residents in aged and disability care homes. While the Government is reviewing the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine in light of last week's announcement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) that the Pfizer vaccine is preferred over the AstraZeneca vaccine for adults aged under 50 years, there has been no change to the arrangements for aged care residents with the rollout of the Pfizer vaccine continuing.

The Australian Government has released a fact sheet on the importance of having the vaccination as the best protection, the need to make an informed decision particularly as we are now heading into winter, and the risks of transmission will increase. I have attached the fact sheet for your information.

Today, our largest Care Home at Goulburn received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, where 144 residents received the vaccine through Aspen Medical. With only Bundanoon remaining, this means that we now have 919 residents at Warrigal that have been administered with the first vaccine, while 106 residents have either chosen not to receive the vaccination or could not receive it due to a medical condition or being on respite and were not going to be there when the second dose was administered. This means that close to 90% of the residents at Warrigal have been vaccinated.

The table below has been updated to reflect those where the doses have been completed.

Aged Care Home	Vaccination Dates		Provider
	1 st Dose	2 nd 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	Aspen Medical
Bundanoon	23/04/2021	14/05/2021	Sonic Healthcare

This week the relative meeting for Albion Park Rail provided some valuable feedback on the communication being sent, and the concerns that staff taking unplanned leave are not always being replaced despite every efforts by the roster team to ensure that there is always a full complement of staff working. This is similar feedback that we have received for other homes, and we are looking at increasing the number of casual staff available to provide support to the core roster. It was also discussed at the meeting that concerns raised over attracting staff to aged care was consistent with a number of recommendations in the Aged Care Royal Commission, and also one of the key drivers of the campaign that was mentioned in a previous update seeking your support in signing an online petition for more funding to the sector in the “Care About Aged Care Campaign”. Please use the link below to support the campaign.

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

In these relative meetings, the accreditation process has also been discussed, where the current standards that were implemented back in July 2019, Standard One, is focused on “Consumer Dignity and Choice”. There are six different requirements under this Standard, and the first one is that “Each consumer is treated with dignity and respect, with their identity, culture and diversity valued”. In order to achieve this our staff need to explore the individual needs, goals and preferences and where necessary utilise interpreter services of specialist agencies. If you have any specific goals of preferences, please ensure that these are communicated to the management team at the Care Home.

Please do not hesitate to contact Warrigal by email at 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