

Lighthouse

# Family News

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## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The situation concerning the management of the Coronavirus pandemic is ever changing as more information comes to hand.

We are doing our best to keep you informed of current and anticipated developments, but it is inevitable that on occasions we may not get our communication to you in a timely way. For that I apologise and hope that you understand that these are extraordinary times.

## Day Programs

It is in the context of these extraordinary times that we have made a decision that no clients will attend Day Programs. The reasons for this are:

- Some families have requested that their family member no longer attend
- Some Day Programs have closed
- Social distancing is one of two key ways in which we can keep our clients and staff safe.
- If some clients **do** attend a Day Program, and bring an infection home, this will have a direct and potentially serious impact on not only that person, but other clients who live in the house as well as the staff who work there.
- It is important to note that where a total shut down has been ordered interstate and overseas, it is to limit the opportunities for people to pass on infections to one another.
- The only way to slow the impact of this pandemic is to limit social contact (that is, social distancing) to minimise the likelihood of the virus being transmitted to others.

## Allied Health Appointments

The same decision applies to non-essential allied health appointments. We understand that many clients have waited a long time to have NDIS funding to enable access to allied health services which are badly needed. However, the possibility of infection with the Coronavirus increases with more contact with others. If you think that essential allied health services can be managed at home, please talk to your Manager, Service Delivery.

The exceptions to this will be people who need medical attention, or have some other urgent matter that needs follow up.

I seek your understanding of the position that we have taken in the interests of the safety of your family, other clients, and our staff. If staff become infected, there will be considerable pressure on our capacity to ensure adequate staff to support your family member.

I reiterate, these are extraordinary times, and we must take extraordinary measures to get through this pandemic. Please see the attached 'Do's and Don'ts' that has been circulated to staff.

If you have any issues with our decisions, please contact your Manager (see details below) Steve Denholm, Amanda Patterson, Luke Culhane or me.

<b>Kerry Presser</b>	<b>Megan Kane</b>	<b>Karen Barry</b>	<b>Louise Bastian</b>	<b>Jen Thompson</b>	<b>Steve Denholm</b>	<b>Brenton Drogemuller</b>
• 19 Audley	• 21 Audley	• Clairville	• Mayfield	• Matilda	• Pauls	• Alawa
• 3 & 5 Crane	• Clearview	• Sophia Way	• Rowe	• Cullford	• Carson	• Mundon
• Grantham	• Mahood	• Spruance	• Rita	• Janet	• Payneham	
• Salmon	• Tarakan	• Rome	• Thomas	• Log		
	• Innes			• Mercedes		

## Health Status Declaration Form (2)

All people who attend the home of a client or Park Tce., are required to complete a Health Status Declaration Form (1). There is now a Health Status Declaration Form (2) which families are required to complete if you take your family member away from his/her home. This will be available for you at your family member's home. Please refer to the attachment.

## Activities for clients at home

Considerable effort has been put into developing a range of appropriate activities for people who will now be at home for the foreseeable future.

We understand that some clients may become agitated and unsettled because of the change in routine, and this is another reason why we are developing a range of activities that are expected to be fun and engaging.

We are working hard to ensure that we have appropriate shift coverage for all houses and we will be striving to ensure that with the provision of suitable activities, clients will continue to be safe, happy and living life well.

## Funding

We are in contact with the NDIS concerning funding to enable us to provide support to your family member while at home because of the Coronavirus. I want to reassure you that it appears that the NDIS are very aware of the financial implications of keeping clients at home, and the requirement to do so for 'social distancing'.

## Family Contact

It is no longer appropriate to invite you to an Information Session to share what we are doing and why. Again, please don't hesitate to make contact with us, if you would like to discuss any aspect of the information provided in this newsletter.

**Marj Ellis**  
CEO