

# NEWS

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***All Gold Card Holders are eligible for  
any of the above services and they are  
free of charge***



## LIVING WITH COVID

We have now entered our third year of operating in a COVID environment and managing the multitude of challenges is a constant challenge.

While wearing masks is no longer required, we are still requiring our Support Workers to continue to wear their mask when providing services to protect you and our staff as much as possible.

The opening of the borders has increased the number of clients and staff who are affected by COVID. Since early March, more than 60% of staff and their families have been affected by COVID.

Despite this infection rate, we are pleased to be able to say that there has been no known transmission of the virus from our staff to clients. I thank all our clients for the way in which they have worked with us to manage throughout this period.

We are finding that recruitment of staff has become easier since the opening of the borders and our HR Co-ordinator is busy building our staffing capacity to ensure that we are off and flying for the rest of the year.

Our staff do not come to work if they are unwell or have an unwell family member. This may result in an alternative support worker coming to do your service. Please continue to be patient while we work through these disruptions.

We are all very grateful that our transition through COVID has been much easier than our eastern counterparts.

## SERVICES DUE ON QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Western Australians will celebrate the Queen's Birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup> September this year. You can choose to have your service which was due on that day on one of the other days that week (from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September) and/or defer your service to the next scheduled time. Please let us know your preference by calling the office on 9408 1100.

## AWARD AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Aged Care Industry will be subject to massive changes in the next couple of years.

Staff wages have increased significantly for the next financial year and the incoming Government are busy coming to terms with a legislative program that was convoluted, contradictory and confusing.

We will be working closely with the support of our industry body to manage our way through the disruptions that have been imposed upon us.

Unfortunately, these coming changes will result in unavoidable higher costs of care for our clients.

## LIVING AT HOME FOR LONGER

Don't forget you may be eligible to receive more assistance at home by having a Home Care Package (HCP) Assessment. Home Care Packages offer more complex coordinated care tailored and coordinated to support senior Australians (including veterans and widows/widowers) who want to keep living in their own home.

Under a Home Care Package, you may be able to take advantage of additional supports that cannot be provided under the Veterans Home Care Program or the Community Nursing Program. This includes:

- fortnightly gardening
- weekly or fortnightly shopping support
- social outings of interest to you and your spouse/partner
- home modifications
- respite care for your spouse/partner

You can get a HCP assessment referral from your GP or by going onto the My Aged Care Website.

**Please contact Linda to find out more information on 9408 1100.**

## FOOTY

It is great to be able to have a footy game to watch on every weekend whether you only have free-to-air or Foxtel TV. It is so good to have Dockers carrying the flag for us West Aussies in the AFL. I haven't given up on the Eagles returning to form earlier than the five-year term that some naysayers have predicted.

## REFLECTION

I was fortunate to have a few days in Kalgoorlie recently and it was a great antidote to the COVID restrictions that we have experienced recently. Our goldfields town is unique, and I found that people in the region were relaxed, extremely friendly and so helpful.

I was also struck by the ingenuity of our forebears, as depicted in the historical pictorials and stories, in the way they just got on with their lives and made so much good from extreme hardship.

It was a great lesson for me that put our struggles over the last few years of COVID into perspective. While it has been undoubtedly tough over the past few years, it

is nothing compared to that which was experienced by our ancestors in their bid to make a better life for their families and themselves.

## FUNNIES FOR YOU

Just cost me a whole QUID to put air in my tyres! Guess that's inflation for you!

The doctor said he wanted to talk to me about my weight!

I said "well it was about 20 minutes, but at least the chairs were comfy!"

If a woman says she'll be ready in 15 minutes, she will be! There's no need to remind her every half an hour!

A Covid test nurse asked me if I'd had a sudden loss of taste!

I told her "No I've always dressed like this!"

## PATRICIA TASSELL

**Chief Executive Officer**