

NEWS

March 2023 Issue No.127

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All our old and new members are welcome to join our team. We provide a range of services and we are always here to help you.



ANZAC DAY—LEST WE FORGET

It will be good to be able to return to honouring our service men and women in the way they deserve with full dawn services and the ANZAC parade.

COVER FOR SERVICES DUE ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL

Anzac Day falls on a Tuesday this year. You can choose to have your service which was due on that day on one of the other days that week (Monday 24 April or from Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 April) or defer your service to the next scheduled time. We will write to you to remind you of this but you can all us to advise of your preference before receiving the letter by calling the office on 9408 1100.



EASTER HOLIDAY COVER

You will have received a letter outlining our management of services over Easter. We do not provide domestic assistance services on gazetted holidays but will do a make-up service for you on another day if you request it. If you receive personal care services under DVA's Community Nursing Pro-

gram or the Home Care Package program, we can provide services for you if you advise us prior to the date.

GUTTER CLEANING

We do regret our need to discontinue our home and garden maintenance staff providing gutter cleaning services and that this decision had to be made because we do have a duty of care to our workers under the Work Health and Safety Act. A thorough risk assessment was undertaken following two significant workplace accidents resulting from staff falls from ladders and it was determined that the task could not be provided safely.

FUTURE CHANGES IN THE AGED CARE INDUSTRY

Last year the Australian Government embarked on an ambitious program to reform the Aged Care Industry to align with the reforms proposed by the Royal Commission. Reform is required of legislation and practice and the overall process is creating huge pressures for operators in both the residential care and home care arenas.

To date the following governance issues to ensure that workers in the industry conduct themselves professionally and are properly screened have been implemented. Our staff have all signed a new Code of Conduct and have committed to the requirements of the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) with an understand-

ing that any illegal or improper conduct can result in a banning order being imposed upon their ability to work in the aged care industry.

The government is also concerned about the overuse of antibiotics and the potential impact on vulnerable people in the community. Our staff have been provided with information about this aspect of their work, called Anti-microbial Stewardship, or known as the acronym AMS.

It has been known for some time that most hospitalisations for aged people are related to falls, and the inappropriate use of, and resistance to, antimicrobials (medications). There is a concern that the latter is widespread and concerning for the community. It is also known that using too many antibiotics can lower your immune system and make you vulnerable to drug resistant infections. If you do have a concern about how many antibiotics you are taking it is wise for you to have a chat with your GP.



ACAT ASSESSMENTS

Eligibility for a range of government funded care programs is available to older people and it is now easier to access funds if you have booked an Aged Care Assessment with the Aged Care Assessment Team. You can check your eligibility for services online at myagedcare.gov.au or you can contact centre staff to talk about your needs on 1800 200 422.

HOME CARE PACKAGES

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.

Linda, our Client Liaison Co-ordinator, is available to meet with you to explain how you can retain your DVA funded services and take up a Home Care Package as well, at no cost to you. Please call her on 9408 1100.

COVID SAFETY

The government have not lifted the mandate for workers to wear masks in the aged care sector and have left decisions to individual companies.

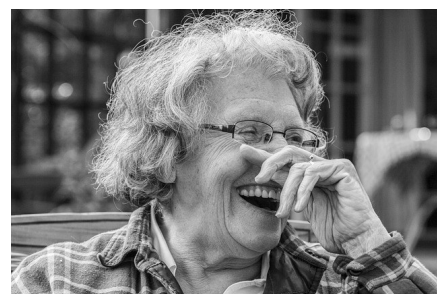
We have made the decision for our staff not to wear masks unless requested to do so by clients. However, if you would prefer that a staff member wears a mask please ask them to do so.

If you test positive to COVID or feel unwell at any time, please contact our office so we can ensure you are looked after and have the services you need.



FUNNIES FOR YOU 😊

- 😊 'I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered.'
- 😊 'Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?' 'In case they get a hole in one!'
- 😊 'Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.'
- 😊 'What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?' 'Sofishticated.'
- 😊 'I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes. Turns out it was the refrigerator all along.'



PATRICIA TASSELL Chief Executive Officer