

Update for families
Sara Blunt, Chief Executive Officer, Kalyra
Friday 14 August 2020

E&OE

Hi everyone

I want to update you on details from the new COVIDSafe emergency direction and other news from Kalyra

Yesterday the State Government announced additional measures to help us protect those living in residential aged care.

In a nutshell, from 27 August, carers will only be able to work at one site, and therefore one employer.

We anticipated this direction for South Australia following the devastating situation in aged care across the border.

The second new measure is about PPE.

Our staff— nursing, medical, allied health or carers, including any agency staff—all those providing support within 1.5m of a resident will need to wear appropriate PPE, right now that's a surgical mask.

This is regardless of whether there is a COVID-19 case at Kalyra, in the local community, state, or not.

For you, and our residents, especially those in memory support, and of course our staff, this may take some adjustment as we get our heads around using PPE in more proactive way, and possibly for a much longer time than dealing with an annual flu or gastro outbreak.

COVID-19 is unlike anything we've had to deal with before and here in SA we are lucky to be learning from other states.

Please remember, there is NO change to the current visitor access (one visit of up to two people per day) and residents are still free to come and go but we do ask everyone to be extra vigilant when out and about in the community.

On Thursday 27 August, I will be hosting an online meeting to discuss our COVID Outbreak Response Plan. An invitation will be sent via email and I encourage you and other family members to participate as it will be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns

On a different note, we have had some important changes in our senior leadership team.

Natasha Forward is now Acting Director of Residential Services providing cross-organisation policy, system and structural support to our three residential homes.

Natasha brings a wealth of aged care experience to the role and is currently working with the staff at each home to ensure we continue to deliver the very best quality of care to each and every resident.

Finally, our nominations for our annual staff awards will be released next week and I hope you will take a moment as a family member to consider putting forward a recommendation a Kalyra employee who has gone above and beyond.

I think they all deserve a gold medal AND an academy award but I'm a bit biased!

Until next time, stay well and thank you for your support as always.
