



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

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6 March 2020

Dear Residents and Relatives,

### **COVID-19 Update Suspension of visit to residential facilities**

You may have seen the media reporting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 about a case of an aged care worker from the Dorothy Henderson Lodge, a BaptistCare aged care facility in Macquarie Park, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 (coronavirus). The Government has asked that all aged care providers, residents and families continue to be collaborative, constructive and responsible, and ensure that we get any information from Government Health websites.

Given that there were more reported COVID-19 infected cases spreading from person to person in the community in the past few days, we have to step up our preventative measures at our aged care facilities in order to protect the vulnerable elderly under our care. These include:

- No visit to our aged care facilities starting from 6 March 2020 until at least the end of March (unless advised otherwise by the government). Our facility team will contact you to explain why stringent measure is necessary to protect the residents from risk of infection via external visitors.
- Continue monitoring temperature of all people entering the facility on a daily basis.
- Ongoing education for our workers on infection control and hand hygiene.
- Continue monitoring our workers who have travelled overseas in particular to the COVID-19 hot spot countries / places. Any workers who have travelled overseas with infected cases have been asked to stand down, self-isolate or work from home as per Department of Health instructions.
- All staff are required to disclose whether they or their household members are employed or engaged at or visited the BaptistCare aged care facility at Macquarie Park.
- All employees must disclose their second job and workplace so we can monitor their risk of working in our organisation.
- Suspension of all volunteers' activities, community visits, site tour, open day and outings at the facility. Our lifestyle team will implement modified activities to reduce large congregation of people or close contacts among residents.
- Minimise cross infections:
  - All communal activities or shared facilities between the Wellness Centre and the Residential Facility have ceased. (Visitors and clients to So Wai Wellness Centre will be asked to use a separate entrance from the courtyard. Hurstville Seniors Wellness program will be temporarily moved to Campsie).

- Working across different workplaces are restricted.

We understand that this will cause concern and inconvenience to you and your family. However, we trust that you will appreciate our reasoning for these measures. Please do not hesitate to discuss with your facility management about any concerns or special requests you may have. We will endeavour to work out a solution so that your connection with the residents can be maintained.

Again, please note that the above measures are implemented based on current evidence and risk assessment and may be subject to change as more information becomes available.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua

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