



18th June, 2020

Dear Resident, Families and Friends,

COVID-19 UPDATE

“We rise by lifting others” – Robert Ingersoll. Recently I have been asked to nominate James Milson Village for the “Resilient Australia Awards 2020” and the “NSW Get Ready Community Awards” this request follows a gracious contact and some wonderful words put forward from one of our families; words outlining what we have done here at JMV during this COVID-19 situation and most importantly our determination to establish and maintain a safe haven for our people. Unfortunately, the Resilient Australia Award nomination closed on 16 June 2020 however we will apply to the NSW Get Ready Community Awards. We really feel that we have won an award already - the confidence and support you provide us in what we do every day has enabled us to rise everyday to the task at hand to maintain our determined efforts – Thank you. I will keep you informed as to how we fare in this little endeavour.

As we progress through the many stages of the COVID-19 Plan I am reminded today by our Chief Medical Officer that COVID-19 “is not done with us yet”. Other countries e.g. China and Germany are now experiencing another wave of increased cases and this type of invigorated spread could happen in Australia if we do not maintain: Social Distancing, Consistent and Good Hand Hygiene, Self-Health Monitoring and staying home and being tested if unwell.

I know how eager everyone is to get back to the activities previously enjoyed however this needs to be done in an orderly way. Within community we have already seen the restrictions on gatherings, food establishments, funerals, and weddings lift. Our government like us at JMV has adopted a conscious slow and steady approach as the fundamental principle, to limit people mixing and the dispersing until we can all be sure that these changes do not lead to the virus making a comeback or in our case entering JMV.

Through the hard work of all and many sacrifices, we have so far avoided the disastrous situation still being faced by many other countries. I am reminded every day that our successful public health response to date is no guarantee that things cannot go backwards. The people living at JMV are people at risk, so we need to be that little more careful and measured with our approach to changing and reducing limitations in place. As we move towards a COVIDsafe Australia, it is important for people at greater risk of serious illness if they get COVID-19 to take extra steps to protect themselves.

From 1 July we will be introducing some further changes to our current visiting limitations:

4 July 2020: visiting on Saturday's will commence from 2pm to 3pm. This time is for those many family members who are unable to visit Monday to Friday. We will be restricting numbers to 5 people in Carabella House and Elamang House.

6 July 2020: visiting will be enabled on our terraced areas – Level 4 Carabella House and Level 3 Elamang House; as we are required to maintain social distancing, we will be restricting numbers to 4 on each terrace. Bookings are required.

21 July 2020: visiting Monday to Friday afternoon will extend x ½ hour and will be 2pm to 3:30pm

1 August 2020: visiting on Saturdays will be extended x ½ hour to 2pm to 3:30pm

2 August 2020: visiting Sunday's 2pm to 3:30pm will commence; again, this prioritised to people who are not able to visit Monday to Friday and number restrictions will apply.

10 August 2020: we will commence enabling people to receive 2 visitors where correct social distancing can be maintained. **Please note** there are many of our rooms that cannot accommodate two visitors safely and unless visiting on terraces is booked, we will not be able to allow visits. Please enquire prior to assuming that you visit can go ahead.

I think that in travelling along this pathway we are meeting most people's suggestions made however as with any change to be successful and able to continue we ask that you remain mindful of the global responsibilities we all hold to practice correct social distancing, hygiene, and health integrity.

In addition, we are continuing to re-introduce activities and the community for our elders; small group outings both in the bus and walking to the park have commenced as well as these from 3 August 2020 we will be inviting our musicians and art therapist to re-commence. All of these will be conducted under social distancing guidelines.

Dance, choir, and pet therapy are on hold for a little while longer until such time as we are comfortable that we can manage the requirements of COVID-19 and we are provided with appropriate health advice. Please be advised that children under 16 are not able to visit at this time.

Thank you and take care

Jennifer