

CEO report YVAC AGM 2020

We went from the previous year's challenges straight into the global challenge of Covid-19. The primary focus of course has been to protect the residents and staff from the very real risk of community transmission of Covid-19. The dire consequences of a resident becoming infected with Covid-19 is evident to all.

Focussing on the positives, to date protecting residents and staff has successfully been done with constant communication with staff, residents and community care clients, and their representatives; there have been two precautionary lockdowns since March; strict screening processes continue; and hypervigilance regarding hand hygiene, social distancing, restricted travel and monitoring for signs and symptoms of Covid-19 also continues. YVAC has followed all the Federal and State Covid-19 Guidelines, Public Health orders etc. A proportionate approach has been used throughout whereby the guidelines for visitor restrictions are managed with consideration of the current risk, the needs of palliative care residents and also those residents living with dementia. Interestingly no resident has presented with flu-like symptoms and very few have had any of the usual chest infections or illnesses normally seen during the year. Results have been similar for staff.

Extra Recreational Activity Officer hours were used during the precautionary lockdowns to ensure the residents were supported over weekends and Public Holidays. YVAC staff and residents have become comfortable with the use of zoom and skype to keep families in contact resulting in residents actually seeing more of their family members now than pre-Covid! Surveys done of residents and their representatives indicate the level of appreciation of the precautions in place and the work involved in keeping residents safe.

The YVAC outbreak management team of Simone Hughes and Alison Jones has been proactive from the outset with ensuring the facility has the latest up-to-date Covid-19 information; sourcing enough of the right PPE and other outbreak equipment; and ensuring that staff are trained and evidenced to be competent in hand hygiene and the use of PPE. Alison Cooke and Jo Limbrick have managed the Home Care services and Meals on Wheels in a similar way. Due to the Covid-19 risk to the MOW volunteers they had to be suspended and Jo and the Home care staff have continued these services. The screening process for Admin staff Amey, Trina and Alison plus our trained volunteer screeners Wendy Dashwood and Julie Webster has been a major task to sustain. I congratulate them for their efforts.

The Management team was recently commended during a site visit by an Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission team as to how well the staff, residents and representatives had been communicated with re Covid-19 up-dates etc. The support from the Board for myself and the staff over this prolonged time of risk has been essential and very appreciated.

Continued acts of kindness towards the facility have brightened the resident's moods with the Friends of Horton House and Warmington Lodge and others continuing to make treats for the restricted Wednesday coffee mornings. The resident's days have been enriched with the use of the smart TVs one of which was generously donated by Reverend Ken Rampling with some residents saying they feel as though they can now travel the world without leaving home. The offer of a bugler for ANZAC day was accepted eagerly and greatly appreciated by the Residents and surrounding neighbours. The Lodge residents are now running a kiosk fortnightly so they can still participate in

some retail therapy during Covid! Several raffles supported by the residents, staff and regular visitors have also been fun and raised funds for more activities.

The Yass Aged Care Foundation support in difficult financial times along with the Friends of HH and WL sincere focus on the residents has enabled increased IT and Wi-fi capabilities and activity opportunities to assist residents to maintain their contacts and general wellbeing during Covid-19 and into the future.

Work is ongoing with NSW health who have been directed by the Commonwealth to assist RACF with Covid-19 outbreak preparedness. This assistance is comprehensive, and appreciated.

In amongst the markedly increased workload of Covid-19, YVAC has also had a successful accreditation process.

As CEO I am extremely proud and appreciative of everyone's tireless efforts to protect and support the residents, clients and staff of Yass Valley Aged Care during 2020.

Thank you

Lyn Morgan

CEO