

CEO report YVAC AGM 2021

Again, the primary focus during 2021 has been and continues to be to protect residents, clients and staff from the risk of community transmission of Covid 19. To date we have been successful due to compliance with all the necessary precautions and the constant diligent efforts of Simone Hughes - Care Manager and Infection Prevention and Control Lead along with Alison Jones - Deputy Care Manager and Outbreak Co-ordinator. The ease and risk of transmission of Covid-19 from the community into the facility cannot be underestimated.

Of the current resident mix 95% are fully vaccinated including respite residents. Of the current working staff 100% are fully vaccinated per compliance requirements. Both residents and staff have been active in accepting vaccination against Covid-19 as being essential. Any that have been hesitant have been reassured and provided with further vaccination education with positive results.

YVAC has continued to successfully manage all of the Covid-19 screening requirements for staff, visitors, contractors, Allied Health providers etc; the ongoing mandatory Covid-19 training; precautionary lockdowns; wellbeing support for the residents and community clients; PPE supply requirements; visitor restrictions; mandatory workforce vaccine requirements; mandatory vaccine reporting requirements for GPs, contractors and volunteers; adherence to Public Health Orders; and compliance with both State and Commonwealth governments. These compliance requirements continue to involve additional resources of large amounts of time (staff and volunteer) and costs for ongoing PPE needs, extra staff wages and expenses for recording, reporting, outbreak management planning, entry screening tasks and screening IT systems.

We are experiencing unprecedented staff recruitment difficulties like many other facilities and sectors. I commend the current staff on their resilience and adaptability even though many are experiencing "Covid fatigue" and have not seen their own families for many months. The residents, community clients and many family members, frequently express their appreciation for the continued staff efforts to keep them safe and supported. In May, the visiting vaccination teams commended all the staff for their efforts in making the vaccination clinics run smoothly and they were also very impressed with the facility environment.

Amidst the Pandemic, there have been many positives at YVAC in 2021. A Chef / Kitchen Manager was employed in January and the residents have enjoyed the benefits of his culinary skills. To improve and maximise the ACFI income an experienced ACFI co-ordinator was employed with positive results to date. The Yass Soldiers Club very generously purchased the Tovertafel "magic table" technology for the facility, which is shown to enhance interaction for residents, especially those living with dementia. It is great for staff interaction with the residents too! The extraordinary Activities team have started a Facebook page for residents and their families which has been an instant hit, especially during lockdown, enabling relatives to see residents participating in day-to-day activities and general fun. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the recent staff Talent Contest and the Hawaiian day with multiple hula skirts; some well-placed coconuts; a themed luncheon accompanied by drinks of punch with little umbrellas; and afterwards a virtual trip to Hawaii with each resident provided with a passport and holiday photo! Improvements to the landscaping around Horton House has started after a very generous, anonymous donation was gratefully received. A big thank you to Wendy Dashwood for volunteering regularly for weekend screening duties.

The facility continues to rely on the generous support of the Yass Aged Care Foundation in difficult financial times along with the Friends of HH and WL. This sincere support and focus on the residents and the workforce, has enabled essential equipment purchases, necessary IT system development and personal supports for the wellbeing of the residents, respectively. A significant estate donation was also received with appreciation.

The continued support from the Board for myself and the staff over this extraordinary period of risk has been essential and very appreciated.

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 2021.

Thank you

Lyn Morgan

CEO