

TO: RCH RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

FROM: CEO – Graham Reed

DATE: 5 March 2021

Aged Care Royal Commission Report Issued

Royal Commissioners, the Honourable Tony Pagone QC and Lynelle Briggs AO presented the much anticipated Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to the Governor-General on 26 February 2021 and it was tabled in Parliament on 1 March 2021.

No doubt residents and family members will have heard mainstream media spent much of this past week drawing attention to the failings within residential aged care homes. Unfortunately, the simplistic solution presented by many commentators has been increased staffing levels and more regulation.

From a personal perspective, I fully support the view that the aged care system is in need of widespread reform. The sector is underfunded and front line staff are underpaid.

The Final Report includes a total of 148 recommendations and I would encourage all residents and family members to read the Summary of the Final Report and the List of Recommendations – both able to be accessed from the Royal Commission website:

<https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/final-report-executive-summary.pdf>

<https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/final-report-recommendations.pdf>

Residents and family members may be interested to know how the residential homes operated by LHI at Glynde and Hope Valley compare to the recommended staffing levels called for in the Report. Recommendation 86: recommends a staged increase in the minimum number of **nursing and care staff minutes per resident per day** that residential care homes will be required to meet effective from 1 July 2022 and increasing further from 1 July 2024.

The following table illustrates that both homes are currently well above the recommended 2022 and 2024 number of minutes per resident per day - except in the category of Registered Nurses where we are marginally lower:

	Prescribed by Royal Commission - 1/7/2022	Prescribed by Royal Commission - 1/7/2024	Current levels - pre new Model of Care	
			Hope Valley	Glynde
Registered nurses (Excludes GM)	40	44	39	39
Enrolled & licensed nurses	160	171	48	43
Other unlicensed nurses/personal care staff			150	155
Total Minutes	200	215	237	237

COVID-19 Vaccination update

The preparation for the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine to all RCH residents and staff is under way and led by our Infection Control Coordinators at both homes. Consents forms, letters to families, residents and staff have been issued to ensure that all concerned are fully informed and that we have everything in place to enable a smooth roll out of the vaccine.

At the time of preparing this media release LHI is still waiting for confirmation on when the vaccination of residents and staff will commence. We do know that residents and staff are included in phase 1(a) of the roll out and we will certainly let residents and families know as soon as we know anything further.

Please remember to encourage everyone you know to get vaccinated – if not for themselves, then for the sake of those who are our most vulnerable and highly valued citizens.

COVID-19 Vaccination - Safe - Effective - Free

Graham Reed
CEO