

**Visiting hours 9am to 11am and 1pm to 4pm every day including weekends and public holidays**

Dear Residents and Representatives

Happy new year all of our Boneham family. We hope that 2021 will bring a renewed optimism and clear pathway out of our year of COVID 19.

We were very pleased to hear the Commonwealth announce yesterday that the rollout of the COVID 19 vaccine would be accelerated with immunisations planned to commence in aged care around the middle of February. We are awaiting further advice from the Commonwealth but we can assure you that as soon as vaccines are available, we will commence our local program of immunisation for residents, staff and volunteers.

It is up to the state governments to decide whether COVID 19 vaccination will be compulsory for staff and/or for visitors in aged care. The news media tells us that the national cabinet will be discussing this very soon with a view to making the rules the same across all states and territories. Once we receive advice on this, we will let everyone know.

We will also await further advice from the SA Government about whether flu vaccination will be mandatory again in 2021. Current 12 month vaccinations expire for most visitors around April so we expect to receive advice within the next few weeks about the flu vaccination program for 2021..

We note that border restrictions remain in place with NSW, with persons arriving from that state required to quarantine for 14 days and receive 2 negative COVID 19 tests prior to entering an aged care home. Similar rules apply to certain hot spots within Victoria at the moment. If you are arriving from NSW or Victoria and want to visit a relative within Boneham, please check the SA Government website prior to arrival to see what the entry requirements are for your individual circumstances. <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/> .

Christmas within Boneham was a little different this year compared to prior years however feedback from residents and family members has been positive, particularly about the private family lunches arranged within residents rooms on Christmas Day for those unable to go out with family. A big thank you to our wonderful catering and care teams for their efforts to make the day special despite current restrictions.

We are also happy to advise that our regular bus outings have resumed much to the delight of the hardy explorers amongst our residents. Trips to the beach for an ice-cream are especially popular at this time of year!

Please remember that residents are able to go out with family at any time which is another way for them to enjoy the companionship of family and friends, especially during school holidays. We hope you all enjoy the burst of summer due to arrive over coming days, and remember to remain hydrated and cover up in the sun.

Kind regards

Michael Filsell (CEO BACS)