



MEDIA RELEASE

MARCH 30, 2020

ALL AUSTRALIANS MUST PRACTISE NEW SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES TO PROTECT OLDER AUSTRALIANS, SAYS CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Families and friends of senior Australians are being urged to be more vigilant than ever to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in aged care facilities.

Catholic Health Australia, Australia's largest grouping of not-for-profit aged care providers, says the new social distancing regulations introduced by the Federal Government should be taken seriously by all Australians.

Pat Garcia, Chief Executive of Catholic Health Australia (CHA), said; "We are at a crucial time in containing and managing community transmission of COVID-19. Aged care providers are doing everything possible to protect older Australians but they need the co-operation of every single person that visits one of their facilities and the people they interact with."

CHA has accepted government measures limiting the amount of visitors but has continued to allow residents managed access to family members, health professionals and anyone else deemed important to their lives.

To avoid enforced isolation, there are strict screening and hygiene measures in place at all facilities.

Mr Garcia said: "The best thing any family member can do right now is to practice the new social distancing rules in place across Australia. If you don't expose yourself to this virus, you won't be able to pass it on. And with older Australians being the most at risk group, we are calling for everyone to be more careful than ever."

The new restrictions include public gatherings being limited to two people, Australians should stay inside unless shopping for essentials, exercising, going to work or medical care. Those over 70 should self-isolate themselves.

Media contact: Julian Lee 0422 343 086