

Media Release

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From chefs to carers: celebrating our aged care heroes

VMCH is gearing up to celebrate the dedication, compassion and professionalism of its aged care workforce this [Aged Care Employee Day](#) on Friday 7 August.

Across residential aged care, home care and community services, VMCH employees and volunteers support older people through every stage of ageing, delivering care, companionship, hospitality and wellbeing services that enrich lives every day.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Kate McCormack said Aged Care Employee Day was a chance to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of aged care employees and volunteers across the for-purpose organisation.

"From nurses, personal care assistants, lifestyle teams and allied health professionals to hospitality staff, pastoral carers, cleaners, administrators and volunteers, every person plays an important role in enriching the lives of our residents and clients and supporting their families," she said.

This year, VMCH is highlighting many team members whose commitment reflects the diversity of skills and roles that underpin quality aged care. They were nominated by their colleagues for going above and beyond in their roles.

At Berwick, Personal Care Assistant Deb Hardie is being recognised for her unwavering dedication to residents and colleagues. A valued member of the team for more than six years, Deb is known for stepping in wherever support is needed and helping create a welcoming, safe and comfortable environment for residents.

Edward Njore, Chef Manager at VMCH Bundoora, is being celebrated for his passion for food and resident wellbeing. Colleagues describe him as a champion of quality dining who takes the time to understand residents' individual preferences and works hard to ensure everyone enjoys a positive dining experience.

Meanwhile at Wantirna, Janine Ridley, Lifestyle Manager, has been recognised for going above and beyond to support residents. Among her many acts of kindness, Janine helped a 102-year-old resident visit her son in hospital late one evening to say goodbye, providing comfort and peace during a difficult time.

Ms McCormack said these individuals are representative of the commitment and compassion shown by aged care teams across VMCH every day.

"These are just a few of the many people who reflect the spirit of our aged care community. We are incredibly proud of our employees and volunteers and grateful for the difference they make every day."

As demand for aged care services continues to grow, VMCH remains committed to supporting a workforce that delivers high-quality, person-centred care and meaningful connections for older people across Victoria.

Media enquiries

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About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, love, joy, hospitality and courage aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

