



welcome

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. The chill is definitely in the air, but don't let this keep you indoors! Our Melville Friends group is out and about visiting places of interest and enjoying some lovely winter food. If you would like to see what's coming up, please speak with your Coordinator, or phone the office.

Maria Davison

CEO

Since our last Newsletter, it's been a busy time on the political front. We have a new Prime Minister, the Labour Party holding majority, and both a Federal and State Budget released. It is gratifying to see a focus on aged care and we continue to lobby both parties for improved pay for direct care workers.

We know what a positive difference they make and while money isn't the main motivator, we need to ensure fair recompense. That's why at Melville Cares we pay above award rates, but we would like to see increased funding to do more. In addition to pay, it's about conditions. You will by now have received a letter from me outlining some award conditions, in particular minimum shifts and split shift changes. This will impact our ability to offer services less than 60 minutes. In most cases it will only be a matter of joining existing 30-minute services. Our main aim is to keep the same team providing your services. Your Coordinator will be in touch if any changes need to be made to your services.

Expansion of our Leadership Team



Michelle Dunne

We are very pleased to welcome Michelle Dunne, Executive Manager - Services, to our Leadership Team. Michelle has held a number of leadership and management roles in Aged Care and brings a wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge across the funding models of Community and Home Care. Combined with her strong management, people and financial skills, her background in legal and contract compliance and her extensive knowledge of the Aged Care Quality Standards, Michelle will provide leadership and expertise to ensure Melville Cares remains focused on our purposes and values while we grow. Welcome Michelle! Michelle can be contacted on mdunne@melvillecares.org.au or by calling the office on 9319 0900.

Saying goodbye

After 27 years of service, Candy Loney, has decided to retire. Candy has held a number of roles since starting with us, most recently working with our team at the Friendship Club. When Candy started with Melville Cares, she was one of 12 staff members compared to our current team of over 135. Candy has made a difference to the lives of many at Melville Cares. We wish Candy every happiness in this next exciting stage of retirement and are delighted that Candy will be returning to the Friendship Club regularly to say hello.



Office Renovation

With more office team members working from home during COVID, we have taken the opportunity to paint and upgrade June Barton House, which is being undertaken by the City of Melville. If you have visited the park next door recently, you will also see a new mural depicting the work of Melville Cares. We look forward to welcoming you to a gathering soon to show you both.



Gold and Silver for Cecil

Back in the day, one of our amazing clients Cecil ran alongside Roger Bannister, who was the first person to run a 4-minute mile. Cecil competed in the Older Australian Athletics over the Anzac weekend and won 1 Silver and 2 Gold medals just 5 days short of his 93rd Birthday. Go Cecil! What an absolute inspiration you are.



INFORMATION

We continue to monitor the environment and provide essential supports through our specially trained and equipped team of workers, including our Transmission Based Precautions Team (TBPT), in cases where clients are isolating due to COVID-19. Please be assured that you can continue to receive support from us in the case that you, or your support persons, are required to isolate. Your Coordinator is ready to help you plan for continued care should this situation arise.

We have received feedback that a number of our clients would benefit from assistance to self-test using RATs. Melville Cares can offer support to those who are self-testing, whether due to being a close contact, or just for peace of mind. Also, if you are thinking of your flu immunisation, now is a good time to book your transport. Please speak with your Coordinator for any advice.



Public Holiday Reminder

A reminder that domestic assistance, transport, and social support services are not provided on Public Holidays. Please speak with your Coordinator if you have any concerns.



Emergency on call

We provide emergency phone support for our team members and clients during the hours that services are being provided outside of office hours, 6.30am -8.30am, and in the evening from 4.30pm 8.00pm, and on weekends between 6.30am and 8.00pm.

This is to support our team and for clients to let us know if the scheduled service needs to be changed, or cancelled. All other calls are taken during business hours when our team can best respond.

Donate your containers to Melville Cares and we'll receive 10c for each one.

With your help, we can make a change.

(Scheme ID: C10602134)

