



VALMAR

Linking Community

ABN 38 060 125 340

75 Capper Street

(PO Box 433)

Tumut NSW 2720

Phone: 02 6947 4150

Fax: 02 6947 3989

Email: ceo@valmar.com.au

Dear Valmar Client / family member / Guardian

As the numbers of Covid-19 cases in Victoria remain at concerning levels, and the outbreaks in NSW spreading further, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from both ACT Health and NSW Health.

For our ACT Group Homes, the current advice is:

- All residents of ACT group homes are being **strongly recommended** to suspend any travel plans to Victoria, Greater Sydney or Newcastle.
- If travel to these areas is absolutely necessary, there must be a viable and achievable 14 Day Exclusion Plan in place that is agreed to by the appropriate decision maker / Guardian and Valmar for when the resident returns.
- Anyone who has been in Victoria must quarantine for 14 days and anyone who has been in Greater Sydney or Newcastle in the last 14 days should exclude themselves and not attend, visit or work in a high-risk setting for 14 days since leaving these areas. (High-risk setting is defined as a setting where there are a large number of people who are vulnerable to severe disease due to age or medical conditions, and/or where there is a higher risk of Covid-19 transmission due to close proximity and difficulties maintaining physical distancing. This definition would cover our group homes and our range of programs).
- Staff, families and other visitors **must** now, until further notice, all be asked prior to them entering the house if they have been to these locations within the last 14 days and excluded from entering if they have been. Additionally, staff providing any other communit-based disability or aged care support in the ACT who have been in these locations in the past 14 days, must also exclude themselves from work for the required period.

The recommendations are slightly different for our **NSW group house residents**, as NSW Health is **not including** all Greater Sydney and Newcastle in their hotspot areas, but rather keeping a constantly changing list of identified hotspots that trigger exclusion. This list can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>

As our primary concern is ensuring the health and safety of our clients, their families and our staff, Valmar is strongly recommending that our NSW services follow the ACT requirements, as set out above and listed in the attached update from ACT Health.

We will continue to request that staff, families and other visitors all be asked, prior to entering a group house, if they have been to these locations within the last 14 days and be excluded from entering if they have been.

The situation is continually evolving, and changes or additional requirements are being frequently issued by the various Governments and medical officers. We will endeavor to forward any relevant information through to you as soon as possible.

As always, I thank you for your support and understanding through these challenging and unique times.

Hugh Packard
Chief Executive Officer



DSS
DS 521389
BSI Certified
Quality Management System

We Ask - We Hear - We Act

www.valmar.com.au

