



MEMO from Gary Simpson - CEO

Eventide Homes Stawell, has embarked on an ambitious project to achieve excellence in aged care. A recent month-long lockdown at the facility, which was due to a large COVID outbreak, highlighted underlying issues that were impacting ability to achieve excellence in care. As a result, the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission is working in collaboration with Eventide Homes to bring about positive changes for the future.

CEO of Eventide Homes, Gary Simpson, said the organisation welcomes the involvement of the Commission and looks forward to some exciting changes occurring.

“About a week before the Commission contacted us, we had been in touch with a consultancy service seeking to engage a Nurse Advisor to review our infection prevention and control systems, and review and make recommendations on our clinical practices. We saw the need to improve and proactively made contact with a consultancy specialising in aged care” said Mr Simpson.

“When contacted by the Commission, they required us to engage a Nurse Advisor, and were pleased we had already taken steps to do that” said Mr Simpson. “We now have a highly credentialed and experienced Nurse Advisor, Loretta Creevey, working with us and the Commission until 28 November, and we have been reporting positive progress on the initiatives we are pursuing.”

Mr Simpson said that the biggest risk currently confronting Eventide Homes is its shortage of nurses, which is a crucial factor they have been trying to address.

“Although there is a national staffing crisis in aged care, we are doing our best to market Eventide Homes as a destination employer for nurses, personal carers, and many other vital roles that contribute to the care of our residents. Eventide Homes has an active recruitment campaign and has been advertising in newspapers, online, has built a relationship with Stawell Secondary College for workplace learning, and will be seeking partnerships with universities or TAFEs as recruitment grounds too.

“Education and training has a major role in the project, and by late November many of our staff, including clinical teams and management, will be upskilled in competencies. We have a detailed training plan to keep us on track, with a major clinical theme per month being delivered, which aligns with the project’s objectives.”