



# Friends of Bethlehem

## NEWSFLASH

21 April 2020

I am writing to you as we hope that you and your families are staying safe and well at this difficult time and have found ways to stay connected with each other. I also thought that it was an opportunity for us to share with you how we at Bethlehem are adapting to the current environment with the COVID pandemic.

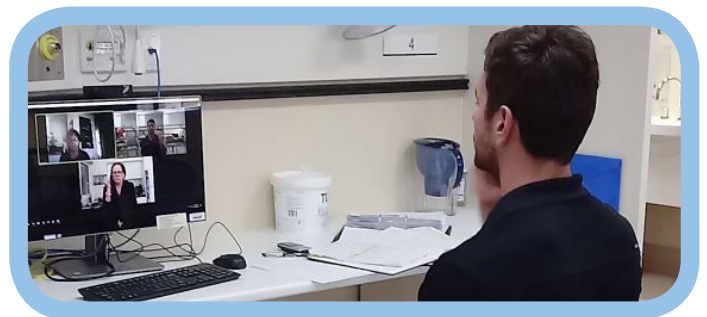
It was only a month ago that we were planning on sharing stories with you about our recent successful MND workshop and the inaugural Golf day that was organised by members of our Community Advisory Council. How quickly things have changed in our world.

Here at Bethlehem, we are in daily meetings to ensure we have plans and contingencies in place so that our patients, visitors and staff are as safe as possible. We have been adjusting the way in which we work to ensure that we continue to deliver high quality, compassionate care to our patients and their families and meet their needs at this time when we are all being encouraged to stay at home and practice social distancing. In addition, we have been working with the broader health system to assist with bed management and planning in case we are required to increase bed numbers.

Social distancing has its challenges but our staff have been very creative! Both our clinics and community services have exceeded our activity targets for the month and although we continue to see people face to face as required, we are also providing additional support via videoconference or phone.

Our day centre has closed as patients were reluctant to attend at this time and both staff and volunteers have commented about how much they are missed.

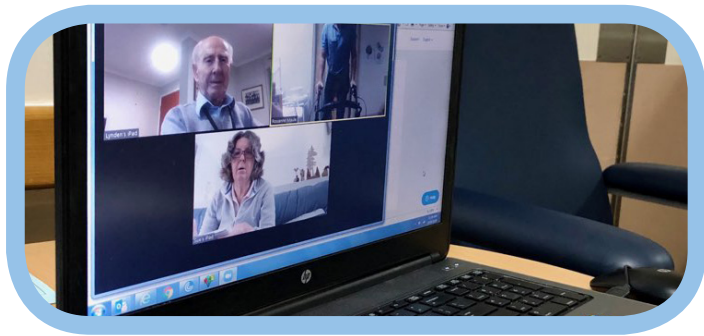
One of the main reasons people attend day centre is on account of social isolation, so our staff and volunteers are coming up with a range of creative options and activities to foster connection with them.



The exercise program is continuing via videoconference and I actually had a chat to some of the participants the other day who were all in good spirits and actively engaged with each other and the physio leading the activity. They are still laughing as much as they did in the gym.



Our music therapists have continued with their open sessions in the reception area and have been roaming the wards playing requests for patients as well as conducting a Friday staff sing-along. We are currently exploring the opportunity to video some of these sessions and broadcast them more widely to people at home.



Our Occupational Therapists are also utilising videoconferencing in different ways to work around the challenges of social distancing and isolation. The other day, two of our Occupational Therapists were able to consult with a 95-year-old MND patient and his quarantined daughter on a separate device to provide familial and clinical support to the patient despite being in 3 different locations.

In order to keep connected with you during this time of enforced isolation rather than the formal Friends of Bethlehem newsletter, we will be sending out a short, monthly newsflash to keep you updated with what we are doing at Bethlehem and how we are continuing to work with our community.

We would prefer to send these newsflashes by email, so please contact us, if this would be your preference. Simply email us at [friendsofbethlehem@calvarycare.org.au](mailto:friendsofbethlehem@calvarycare.org.au).

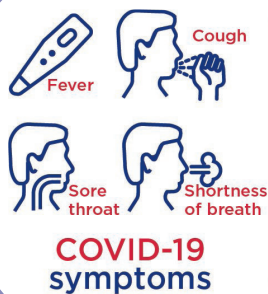
We would also love to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions of ways we could connect and support each other.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing support of Bethlehem. Please stay well and stay in touch.

*Jane*

Dr Jane Fischer  
General Manager/Medical Director  
Calvary Health Care Bethlehem

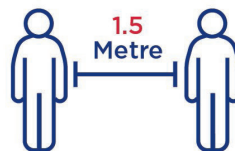
Updates and news can also be found on our website: [www.bethlehem.org.au](http://www.bethlehem.org.au) and on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/calvarybethlehem](https://www.facebook.com/calvarybethlehem). Please **like** our Facebook page so you can receive all our updates as soon as they are uploaded!



**COVID-19**  
symptoms



Practise **good**  
hygiene



Practise **social**  
distancing



**self-isolate**  
if you need to

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