

# Covid-19 Update:

As you will all know by now, the Perth Metro and Peel region have been instructed to go into a 4-day lockdown commencing Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 12:01am Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. The lockdown has been introduced due to the highly contagious Delta strain of COVID-19 being detected and transmitted within the community.

The advice from the Premier has been very clear with regard to lockdown requirements. This is a lockdown for at least the next 4 days, but as per our response last year to lockdown, we will be flexible and adaptive in continuing to deliver therapy that are safe and effective.

# Your therapy services:

Our Mandurah and Applecross clinics will be closed for client consults until at least Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021. All of our community-based therapists, administration and leadership teams have been instructed to work from home and abide by the state governments lockdown requirements. Please see the link below to the state government announcement for further information.

#### https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/4-day-lockdown-introduced-perth-and-peel

After last years' experience, many of you will be familiar with receiving therapy supports via telehealth. There are many ways we can continue to support you and your family that do not involve face to face consults, and as most of us have previously experienced, this will take some planning and adaptability from you and your therapists.

If you are already engaged with Kern, a member of your therapy team will be in contact to discuss alternatives to face to face consults and other ways we can continue to support you in working towards your goals during this time. If you have any immediate concerns and require a face to face consultation this week, please contact your key worker directly.

Our hospital and aged care teams will continue to provide the full range of therapy services to the patients and residents of the facilities we support, and will be ready to play their part in our frontline health service should the current situation deteriorate.

To ensure continuity of care in any future scenario, we will move to separate therapists that work in different facilities to avoid possible cross infection, as well as from any physical interaction with members of the leadership team that can provide clinical cover if required. Last March we were very proud of the way our team at the Peel Health Campus stood up and scrubbed up, literally wearing emergency scrubs, as we prepared for an influx of affected patients. Despite the potential risks, everyone was prepared to do whatever was required and we know they will do the same again if the need arises.

# What we will continue to do:

The health and safety of our clients and staff is the priority at this time and as such we will continue to:

• Follow all recommendations issued by the Australian Government as well as the state and federal Health Departments.

• Monitor the situation, our position and government advice closely and take appropriate action if required.

• Effectively communicate to participants and staff any important developments or changes in our ability to safely deliver therapy services, including advising you if any of your therapists become unwell, develop symptoms or are suspected of being infected.

I wish you and your family all the best over the coming days and hopefully we can return to the fortunate position our state has previously enjoyed very soon. As always, if there is anything we can do to improve our service to you, I would welcome your feedback.

### More information:

The links below provide further up-to-date information about COVID-19.

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/ndis-and-other-government-services/ndis-and-disasterresponse?sfns=mo https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/News/Media-releases-listing-page

Kind regards

Mark Kerns Managing Director

Respect Compassion Teamwork