

Dear

We are writing to you as our records indicate that you are the nominated decision maker for

A review of the clinical records of the resident indicate that you have previously provided us with a copy of the Advance Care Directive/Plan for the resident that outlines the choices and preferences for future care and treatment, including wishes for care at the end of their life.

As you would be aware, over the past few months many people in Australia and around the world have become ill with COVID-19, the illness caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Many people who have become unwell with COVID-19 experience cold and flu symptoms and recover fully on their own. However, some people, especially those who are older and/or have chronic health conditions, have become seriously ill and some have died.

Unlike conditions such as heart disease, cancer and dementia that may take years to reach a serious stage, COVID-19 can cause people to become suddenly and seriously unwell and requiring intensive treatment. Unfortunately for many older people and/or those with chronic health conditions, the intensive medical treatments used to treat people with COVID-19 are not always effective and may not ensure the person's survival or enable them to get back the quality of life they had before the illness.

We appreciate this may be difficult to think and talk about. We would like to be able to have a conversation with you about any concerns you may have about COVID-19 and to support you as you consider what care and treatment you would want for the resident if they became seriously ill from coronavirus. These are hard questions to answer. While we understand you have already documented the wishes and preferences for future care and treatment and these will remain unchanged until you advise otherwise, you may not have considered these in relation to the resident becoming unwell as a result of COVID-19 infection.

We would like to arrange a discussion with you, the resident, their general medical practitioner and member of our clinical team to discuss any questions, thoughts and concerns you may have. We would like, based on your understanding of the resident's previous wishes and preferences, to know what action you would like to take if they became seriously ill from COVID-19.

We have provided some questions below that may assist you with your decision making and you may wish to talk with the resident when considering these questions. We would encourage you to make some notes so we can discuss your thoughts and any concerns you may have at this time when we meet with you.

1. At this time, what are you most worried about as the substitute decision maker for the resident?
2. If the resident tested positive to COVID-19 what would you be most worried about?
3. If the resident became seriously ill with COVID-19
 - a) what do you think would be most important to the resident?
 - b) what do you believe the resident would find helpful while they were unwell?
 - c) would you want the resident to receive treatment aimed at care and comfort which is consistent with their existing Advance Care Directive/Plan or treatment aimed at prolonging life?
4. Have you spoken with other significant people in the resident's life about what you believe the resident would want if they become seriously ill with COVID-19?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and give consideration to the care and treatment of the resident if they test positive to COVID-19.

Please contact
on _____ to arrange our discussion with you or if you have any questions in relation to the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely