

## **Protecting Older Australians: COVID-19 update 16 June 2020**

15 June 2020 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day aims to encourage people to pay greater attention to the health and wellbeing of older people. The Aged Care Workforce Retention Bonus Payment grant opportunity round is now open. Details on how to apply are included in today's edition. Additionally, the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidelines on outbreak management in residential care have been updated. As always, many thanks to you and your teams for your continued support to protect older Australians.

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

15 June was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a day designated by the United Nations for people around the world to voice their opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to our older generations. The measures in place to help prevent elder abuse and protect the health, safety and wellbeing of senior Australians are even more important during uncertain and challenging times, such as now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 June 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the introduction of a Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) for residential aged care from 1 July 2021. The SIRS will expand the responsibilities of residential aged care providers in relation to identifying, recording, managing, resolving and reporting assaults and a broader range of serious incidents in residential aged care. The SIRS will drive quality and safety improvements to residential aged care at the individual service and broader system level. The SIRS will be administered by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

### **Workforce Retention Bonus Payment**

The grant opportunity round for the Aged Care Workforce Retention Bonus Payment is now open. All information regarding this grant opportunity can be found on the GrantConnect website using the GO ID of GO4068. Please note that you will be required to register to access the documents. For any provider enquires please email [grant.ATM@health.gov.au](mailto:grant.ATM@health.gov.au).

### **Updates to the CDNA Guidelines**

The Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) has updated the National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Australia. The guidelines provide best practice information for the prevention and management of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care facilities.