

COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME

Report under section 10A(5) of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*

I publish the following report as required under section 10A(5) of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* for the reporting period of 15 June 2020 to 14 July 2020

This report may be accessed at www.communityvisitorscheme.sa.gov.au

1. Visits by the Community Visitor Scheme that have occurred by audiovisual or other electronic means ¹

(a) Volunteers of the Community Visitor Scheme have undertaken 12 visits for the reporting period, comprised as follows:

a. Visits under the *Disability Services (Community Visitor Scheme) Regulations 2013*

Method of visit	Date of visit	Time of visit	Name and Location of premises
Video	29 June 2020	3.00pm	Residence-Clearview
Video	10 July 2020	3.00pm	Residence-Albert Park
Video	14 July 2020	3.00pm	Residence-Woodville

b. Visits under the *Mental Health Act 2009*

Method of visit	Date of visit	Time of visit	Name and Location of premises
Video	16 June 2020	3.00pm	Helen Mayo House-Glenside
Teleconference	18 June 2020	2.00pm	Jamie Larcombe Centre-Glenside
Video	24 June 2020	2.00pm	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Video	1 July 2020	3.30pm	Rural and Remote-Glenside
Video	2 July 2020	10.00am	Morier Ward-Noarlunga Health Service
Video	2 July 2020	2.00pm	Ward 18V-Flinders Medical Centre
Video	6 July 2020	2.00pm	Tarnanthi & Sub-acute Unit-Glenside

¹ Section 10A(5)(a)-(c) of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*

Video	7 July 2020	11.00am	Western Intermediate Care Centre
Video	14 July 2020	11.00am	Elpida House

c. Visits under the *COVID-19 Emergency Response (Schedule 1) Regulations 2020*

Nil. No detention orders in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were made under these regulations during the reporting period.

(b) Reasons why each such visit or inspection occurred by audiovisual or other electronic means ²

The CVS is required to visit and inspect mental health treatment centres and authorised community mental health facilities. The CVS also undertakes annual visits and inspections of state funded disability services accommodation, and at other times as requested. Visits must be conducted by myself or by volunteer Community Visitors in person.

Following the declaration of a Public Health Emergency on 15 March 2020 and associated public health advice about the COVID-19 pandemic, I cancelled all CVS visits from 18 March 2020.

Section 10A of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* came into effect on 15 May 2020, authorising the CVS to undertake visits and inspections by audiovisual means, where practical.

Based on the public health guidance regarding social distancing requirements, CVS visits have been conducted by audiovisual means to protect volunteers and clients of the CVS from the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Some facilities have also restricted access to residents and patients to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The CVS has scheduled audiovisual visits and inspections based on the availability of volunteer Community Visitors and the mental health and disability accommodation facilities. Priority has been given to those mental health sites that were not visited in March 2020.

Visits are undertaken using audio-visual technology. If this is not available, a visit is undertaken by telephone.

² Section 10A(5)(d) of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020

2. Visits under the *Mental Health Act 2009*³

The CVS is required to visit and inspect mental health treatment centres and authorised community mental health facilities bi-monthly.

It was not possible to visit the following mental health facilities in person or by audiovisual means during the reporting period:

Name and Location of premises
Berri Hospital - ED & Integrated Mental Health Inpatient Unit (IMHIU)
Flinders Medical Centre - Ward 4GP
Glenside Campus - Inpatient Rehab Service
James Nash House - Aldgate, Clare, Birdwood
Lyell McEwin - ED, Short Stay Unit, Ward 1G & Ward 1H
Marion Community Mental Health Service
Mt Gambier Hospital - ED & IMHIU
North East Community Mental Health Centre
Royal Adelaide Hospital - ED, SSU & Ward 2G
Whyalla Hospital - ED & IMHIU
Women's and Children's - ED, Adolescent Ward & Boylan Ward
Wondakka Community Rehabilitation Centre

Audiovisual visits have not been completed due to several factors:

- The CVS has scheduled audiovisual visits and inspections based on the availability of volunteer Community Visitors and the mental health facilities.
- Fewer volunteer Community Visitors have been available to undertake the audiovisual visits.
- There are some mental health facilities where it is not practical to undertake an audiovisual visit and inspection. For example, some Community Mental Health Centres have moved to predominately home visits to patients and there are few, if any, patients to speak with on site.

³ Section 10A(5)(e) of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*

The CVS is prioritising scheduling visits to facilities that have not been visited since March 2020 as listed above in Table 1(a) b. As a result, visits currently due at a number of sites will also be rescheduled.

Anne Gale

Acting Principal Community Visitor

22 July 2020