

OFFICIAL

COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME

Report under section 52B of the *Mental Health Act 2009*

I publish the following report as required under section 52B(6) of the *Mental Health Act 2009* for the reporting period of 9 December 2021 to 8 February 2022.

This report provides information about all visits undertaken by audiovisual or other electronic means for the relevant reporting period.

Visits are undertaken by the Principal Community Visitor and Community Visitors (collectively described as the ***Community Visitor Scheme***).

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

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

The Community Visitor Scheme has undertaken 25 visits for the reporting period, comprised as follows:

1. Visits under the *Mental Health Act 2009*

Method of visit	Date of visit	Name of premises
Video	17/1/2022	Urgent Mental Health Care Centre
Video	17/1/2022	Tarnanthi and Sub Acute-Glenside
Video	17/1/2022	Eastern Acute—Glenside
Video	18/1/2022	North East Community Mental Health Centre
Video	19/1/2022	Eastern Community Mental Health Centre
Video	19/1/2022	Adelaide Clinic
Video	19/1/2022	Royal Adelaide Hospital
Video	19/1/2022	Borderline Personality Disorder Co
Video	21/1/2022	Flinders Medical Centre (18V and 4GP)
Video	24/1/2022	Noarlunga Hospital
Video	24/1/2022	Elpida House
Video	24/1/2022	James Nash House

Method of visit	Date of visit	Name of premises
Video	24/1/2022	Mount Gambier Hospital
Video	25/1/2022	Jamie Larcombe Centre—Glenside
Video	28/1/2022	Lyell McEwin Hospital
Video	1/2/2022	Inner South Community Mental Health Centre
Video	2/2/2022	Modbury Hospital
Video	3/2/2022	Northern Community Mental Health Centre
Video	3/2/2022	Rural and Remote – Glenside
Video	3/2/2022	Helen Mayo House – Glenside
Video	3/2/2022	Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Emergency Department and Short Stay Unit)
Video	7/2/2022	Women’s and Children’s Hospital
Video	7/2/2022	Trevor Parry Centre
Video	8/2/2022	Ashton House
Video	8/2/2022	Whyalla Hospital

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

Nil. There were no visits undertaken by audiovisual or other electronic means during this reporting period.

Reasons why each such visit or inspection occurred by audiovisual or other electronic means

The CVS is required to visit and inspect mental health treatment centres and authorised community mental health facilities bi-monthly. The CVS also undertakes annual visits and inspections of state funded disability services accommodation. Visits must be conducted by the Principal Community Visitor or Community Visitors in person.

Section 52B of the *Mental Health Act 2009* allows a Community Visitor to undertake a visit or inspection by audiovisual or other electronic means, if in the opinion of the Principal Community Visitor, it is not reasonably practical for a community visitor to physically visit or enter the relevant premises.

The reasons that a physical visit or inspection may not be reasonably practical include the need to prevent the spread of contagious diseases (section 52B(2)(c) of the *Mental Health Act 2009*).

In late December 2021-January 2022 there was a significant increase in cases of COVID-19 in South Australia and a heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the community. As a consequence, many services were not accepting visitors by mid-January 2022, or required visitors to wear extensive personal protective equipment (PPE).

The CVS generally does not schedule visits over the Christmas and New Year period and in person visits were scheduled to resume in mid-January 2022.

The Principal Community Visitor elected to conduct visits by audiovisual means from mid-January 2022 due to the need to prevent the spread of contagious disease (namely, COVID-19) and the restrictions on access to premises imposed by some services.

In conjunction with audiovisual visits, the CVS also commenced procurement of the required PPE and planning for a safe return to in person visits when services were ready to receive visitors.

The CVS has since returned to in person visits from late March 2022 but will continue to undertake a mix of in person and audiovisual visits, to meet the changing circumstances of each premises.

Anne Gale

Principal Community Visitor

22 April 2022