

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 March 2021 to 14 April 2021.

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 nil audiovisual visits for the reporting period.:

a. 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.

b. Visits under the *Mental Health Act 2009*

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

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

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

(b) Reasons why each such visit or inspection may occur 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.

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

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

From mid-May to mid-July 2020, CVS visits were 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.

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

The CVS reinstated in-person visits, where appropriate, from mid-July 2020 but returned to audiovisual visits in November 2020 in accordance with public health advice. The CVS has resumed in-person visits from December 2020.

All in-person visits are conducted in a COVID safe manner and in compliance with the policies and procedures of the local sites.

CVS will continue with in-person visits unless there is any change in advice from SA Health and the State Coordinator, in which case, audio-visual visits may be utilised.

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. All visits to these facilities are up to date and the CVS has returned to its bi-monthly visitation schedule.

Anne Gale
Acting Principal Community Visitor
20 April 2021

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