

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 July 2021 to 14 August 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 7 audiovisual visits for the reporting period, comprised as follows:

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

There were 3 visits undertaken by audiovisual or other electronic means during this reporting period.

Method of visit	Date of visit	Time of visit	Location of premises
Video	21/7/2021	3pm	20 Hilton St, Angle Park
Video	21/7/2021	4.15pm	22 Hilton St, Angle Park
Video	22/7/2021	3pm	8 Shearwater Cl, Semaphore Park

b. Visits under the *Mental Health Act 2009*

There were 4 visits undertaken by audiovisual or other electronic means during this reporting period

Method of visit	Date of visit	Time of visit	Name and Location of premises
Video	22/7/2021	11:00AM	Ward 18V, Flinders Medical Centre
Video	30/7/2021	3:00PM	Ward 1H, Lyell McEwin Hospital
Video	3/8/2021	10:00AM	Woodleigh House, Modbury Hospital
Video	3/8/2021	10:00AM	Inner South Community Mental Health Service

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

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

Nil.

The South Australian Government introduced a temporary scheme under Schedule 1 of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*, to allow accommodation service providers to lawfully and urgently detain persons who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and/or non-compliant with public health guidance, for a short period. A further period of detention up to 28 days could be approved on application to the person's guardian, or, if no guardian was appointed, by an Authorising Officer or the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). The CVS was also authorised to visit any person detained under this scheme.

This temporary scheme ended on 31 May 2021.

(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.

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-July to early-August 2021, 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 also restricted access to residents and patients to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The CVS 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 resumed in-person visits, where appropriate, from mid-August 2021 in accordance with public health advice.

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 to undertake a mix of in-person and audiovisual visits, tailored to the individual circumstances of the client and facility or residence.

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 facility in person or by audiovisual means during the reporting period:

Name and Location of premises
Elpida House
Ward 4GP, Flinders Medical Centre

Anne Gale
Principal Community Visitor

19 August 2021

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